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THE TIMES

No. 64,464

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 1992

45p

Scargill calls for strike • TUC urges debate • Conservatives demand intervention

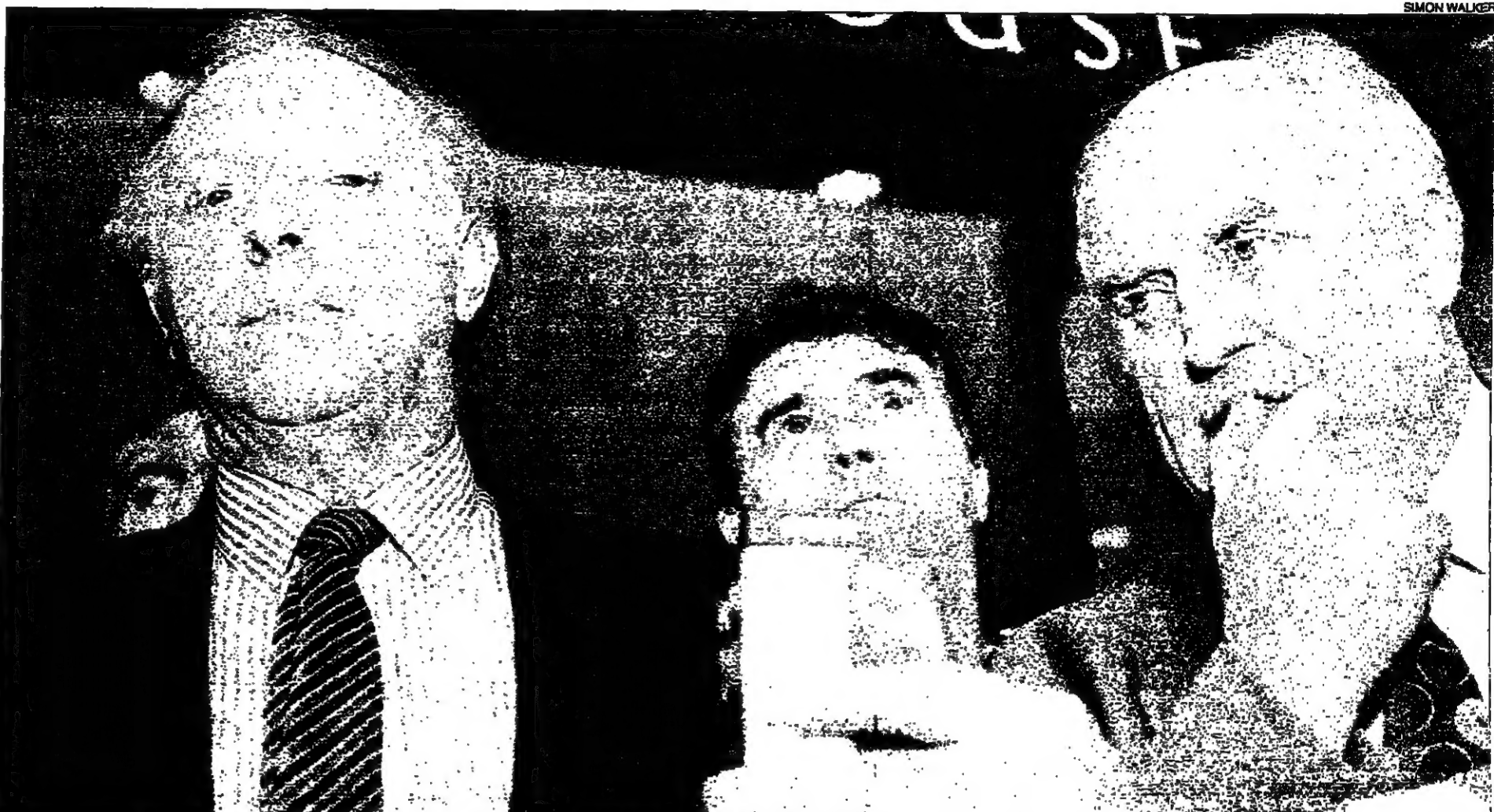
Jobs fallout sends Tories reeling

The government's own supporters joined the cry for changes in economic policy as the full impact of closures in the mining industry announced on Monday became clear and fears grew of worse to come

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE government was under mounting pressure last night to change its economic strategy after Conservative MPs led the protest over British steel's decision to close more than half the country's pits. Ministers faced demands from their own supporters for intervention to rescue threatened collieries and for asset cuts in interest rates to avert a recession. An unexpected fall in industrial output in August heightened the sense of gloom and less figures published today are expected to provoke renewed demands for a more interventionist economic policy.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, whose future was called into question by MPs. At the same time, the building industry delivered a warning that it will lose 120,000 jobs by the end of the year. Its leaders said that night, tragic though losses in the mining industry were, they were dwarfed by jobless toll in the construction industry. The government's best economic body



Pitted against job losses in the mining industry: Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, and Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, in London yesterday

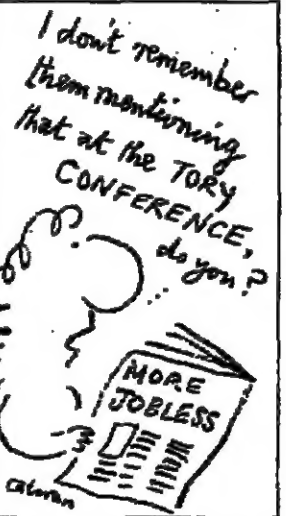
Whitehall dampens hopes for summit

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of tomorrow's Birmingham summit producing a breakthrough in the array of difficulties facing the European Community were played down by the British government yesterday. British sources said that there was "no guarantee" of a declaration spelling out curbs on the powers of the European Commission and added that much would have to wait until the Edinburgh summit meeting in December.

Senior ministers, however, expect the summit to agree broad guidelines on subsidiarity, the principle that decisions should be taken at the national level unless there are powerful reasons for them to be taken by the EC.

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Philip Howard, page 16
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Even Major's supporters cry 'drift and weakness'

JOHN Major's cabinet will hold its weekly meeting this morning after the most bruising few weeks for the Tories since Margaret Thatcher was confronted by rising unemployment and inner city riots in 1981.

The Conservative government is vulnerable because it has not offered a way out of the recession or the continuing wave of redundancies, writes Peter Riddell, Political Editor



an emergency meeting of its general council to discuss the decision. Norman Willis, the general secretary, said the manufacturing core of the country was "starting to melt" and he appealed to John Major to halt the pit closures. Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, predicted that the pit closures would be the downfall of the government.

Mr Heseltine scorned Mr Scargill's threats, saying a return to "wrecking tactics" could throw away the benefits Continued on page 3, col 1

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ment is less worried by the threat of strikes and disruptive action over pit closures than by the gloomy economic outlook and dangers of social unrest. Unlike the recession of the early 1980s, the impact of the current downturn has been much greater in the Tory heartlands and on small businessmen who are the pillars of many constituency associations. Their discontent was reflected in the unprecedented rough ride the government was given over economic policy at the Tory party conference in Brighton a week ago.

Moreover, cutbacks in defence spending have resulted in the announcement of large-scale redundancies by companies like British Aerospace with factories in Tory-held seats in the Southeast. Senior ministers are now saying privately that they expect the next 18 months to be the most testing since the early 1980s. The government faces a direct challenge over unemployment and the recession. It also has ahead of it a lengthy struggle to re-establish political and economic credibility after sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. Norman Lamont is seriously, and possibly fatally, wounded as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Judge criticised

THE decision by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division, to order a 30-year-old woman to undergo a caesarean section in an attempt to save the life of her unborn child was criticised yesterday by doctors and lawyers who said it undermined the rights of women over their bodies.

medical law and ethics at Kings College, London, and the country's leading expert, described it as an "epoch-making" decision. "It has massive implications for the status of women in regard to them as chattels and ambulatory wombs. It is so potentially intrusive as to reduce women back to the status of slaves" Page 5

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State Department trawled UK for anti-Clinton material

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AL Gore, the Democrats' vice-presidential nominee, yesterday accused the Bush campaign of carrying its "hateful" McCarthyite tactics to new extremes by ordering the US Embassy in London to dig for dirt on Bill Clinton's activities while an Oxford student 23 years ago.

The charge, strenuously denied by the White House, followed the disclosure that the State Department on September 30 instructed the Grosvenor Square embassy to search for any files it had on Mr Clinton, including documents on his draft status and citizenship. That was followed the next day by a personal telephone call from Elizabeth Tepper, the assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, to Norbert Krieg, the embassy's consul general,



Clinton: investigated by London embassy

ministration's story "doesn't wash". He said instructing government officials to "rummage through all of their files to see if they can pick up some personal dirt about Bill Clinton" was an unprecedented "abuse of power" that smacked of a police state.

Rostov Ripper found guilty

Andrei Chikatilo, 57, the man dubbed the "Rostov Ripper" after a series of killings in which he ate parts of his victims, was found guilty yesterday of 52 murders by a court in southern Russia.

Hughes goal boosts Wales

Mark Hughes last night scored his first international goal in two years to beat the part-timers of Cyprus in a World Cup qualifying match in Llanelli and boost Welsh hopes of reaching the 1994 finals in the United States Page 40

Italy hints at doubt on EFA project

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ITALY appeared to cast doubt last night on its future involvement in the four-nation E22 billion European Fighter Aircraft programme. A letter from Salvatore Ando, the defence minister, to the chief of staff of the Italian air force hinted at difficulties with funding the project.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

999 call answered by a recording

A man who dialled 999 when his father was choking to death was put through to an answering machine, an inquest was told yesterday. The Westminster coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Roderick Bell, 86, who choked on a piece of food as he dined with his son, David, 46, at the father's flat in Paddington, north London, on September 3.

London Ambulance Service's control room manager, Russell Mansford, said four staff had been on sick leave. He admitted that a three-minute wait for the call to be answered was unacceptable but said the arrival time for the paramedic crew, 14 minutes, was within standards.

Yard IRA admission

Scotland Yard's intelligence on IRA operations is still poor almost a year after a leaked police report admitted that it had little material on terrorist operations, says John Howley, the deputy assistant commissioner in charge of the Yard's Special Branch and anti-terrorist branch. Mr Howley was interviewed for tonight's *This Week* programme on Thames TV, after a week in which the IRA has exploded eight bombs in London, killing one man. He claims that the Yard was one of the targets for five huge bombs planned for important sites. The IRA unit responsible was stalked by police this summer but escaped 24 hours before the bombs were to be set, he said. The explosive was recovered.

Opera masterpiece sale

A complete music manuscript by a master of nineteenth century Italian opera will go on sale at Sotheby's in December to raise funds for the beleaguered Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. It is hoped that the document, autographed by Donizetti and discovered by chance wrapped in old paper in the depths of the opera house library, will fetch up to £150,000. The extraordinary find fills a significant gap in musical history. The opera house has a deficit of £3.6 million and is seeking every means to pay off pressing debts. This is the first time it has sold such a masterpiece from its music library. Donizetti worked on the opera, *Elisabetta*, from 1827 until at least 1840.

Shrinking Glasgow

Glasgow now belongs to only 637,949 people, down from almost a million 20 years ago, but it is still over 235,000 ahead of Edinburgh. The figures from last year's census, disclosed yesterday, showed that there were 4,998,567 people resident in Scotland. Dr Charles Glennie, the registrar general, believes there was undercounting, however, and estimates that Scotland's population was 5.1 million in mid-1991. Only 68.4 per cent of people in the Western Isles could speak Gaelic last year, a fall of over 11 per cent since 1981. In the past ten years, Highland, Grampian and Borders regions have grown fastest. The biggest population falls were in Strathclyde, Shetland and the islands.

Assault over mud hut

A man lashed out at policemen when council workers began to pull down a mud hut that his wife had built in their back garden, a court was told. Philippe Ntolo, 28, of Dagenham, east London, was conditionally discharged for a year by Redbridge magistrates after admitting assault. He was ordered to pay a total of £175 compensation to PC Paul Sullivan and PC Michael Lambert. The incident happened on September 23 when police and Redbridge council officials went to remove the roof of the 54ft hut.

Scargill urges strike ballot and pit protests

BY NICHOLAS WATT

ARTHUR Scargill yesterday urged miners and their families to demonstrate at pits threatened with closure. He called for a ballot on strike action over the "senseless slaughter of a valuable, indigenous asset".

Under the government's plans, announced on Tuesday, 27 pits will close, four will be mothballed and 30,000 miners will be made redundant. Mr Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "This round of closures smacks of total vindictiveness on the part of this government. It has got to stop."

Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, told miners not to resort to wrecking tactics that would threaten their redundancy package. "We have provided a

very generous redundancy scheme to help people," he said. "There is no point in helping to throw away the benefits of that scheme by fighting a cause that is already resolved."

The Labour party claimed yesterday that the closures would lead to more than 100,000 job losses. Robin Cook, the party's trade spokesman, said that there must be a campaign to turn the nation's "disbelief" at the scale of the job losses into an appeal to the government.

Mr Scargill said from the steps of the Trades Union Congress headquarters in London, where the union's executive met yesterday, that British Coal had broken every piece of trust and that its record was deplorable. "There is no economic basis for this pit closure programme."

Claiming that he had sup-

port from Tory MPs, Mr Scargill said: "British deep-mined coal is the cheapest in the world, 350 per cent cheaper than nuclear power, 30 per cent cheaper than gas, and 30 per cent cheaper than heavily subsidised imported coal. The cost of the closure programme will be £2.1 billion, with an additional ongoing cost of £2.5 billion, all of which could

UNION VIEW

be saved if Britain's energy needs were met by Britain's efficient, indigenous coal industry."

Public support was so strong that people should be allowed a referendum on the closures, he said. "We are convinced that we would win the overwhelming support of the British people... I am fully vindicated in what I have been

saying and the only surprise is that the media is now supporting me."

Jim Dowling, a member of the union's executive, said: "We have to broaden the campaign. What we are saying is, give us some help. Let's all get on the streets or let's all give up."

Peter McNestry, general secretary of Naomh, the pit supervisors' union, said that thousands more mining jobs could be lost. "The government has not mentioned the men who do development work and salvage work underground."

The NUM executive also met leaders of the main railway unions, who condemned the pit closures and agreed to lobby Parliament. Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the Rail Maritime and Transport Workers Union, said that 5,500 railway jobs were

threatened by the closures. He would not rule out industrial action and said he had asked for an urgent meeting with British Rail "to assess the implications" for rail jobs.

Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said that he doubted the legality of the government's decision. Calling for an emergency meeting of the TUC general council, he said that the government looked like "frightened rabbits stuck in the headlights of an oncoming car". He added: "We must have a pause... on pit closures. The core of British manufacturing industry has been run down over the past years, weeks and days."

He said that all the people who had telephoned the TUC to pledge their support should pester John Major instead. "I appeal to people to stop phoning the TUC and to start telephoning the prime mini-

ster and Tory MPs. We cannot get on with our work because of the number of calls we are receiving."

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover and a former miner, who sat in on the meetings, predicted a harsh winter ahead for the government. "With this government being so fragile, it is not like 1984 when we were fighting a strong power base. I think it could well be a winner of discontent that could make 1979 look like a tea party."

When an evangelical preacher said: "May the Lord be with you," Mr Skinner retorted: "We've got the bishops of Durham and Sheffield on our side. I don't think we have Him on our side yet but we may do because this is a great moral battle."

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Business comment, page 25

A man's dream puts 110 in work

BY RAY CLANCY

THE windows at Monktonhall colliery in Midlothian, Scotland, were boarded up. But the pit, mothballed by British Coal in 1988, is working again. After years of tricky negotiations with British Coal, a consortium of miners was handed the keys in June to lease the pit.

Since then thousands of tons of coal have been brought to the surface, a canteen has opened for the 110 workers and customers are waiting.

Jim Parker, managing director of Monktonhall Mine Workers Ltd, the company running the pit, remembers working there when the first shaft was sunk in the 1950s. He hopes soon to double the number of workers to 200 but the maximum is likely to be no more than 500, compared to 2,300 in the pit's heyday.

The fact that 110 are working at all is due to Mr Parker's determination and guts. For 30 years he has dreamed of running a colliery efficiently.

Back in the 1960s he realised that British Coal was heading for disaster. "Mines are shut down supposedly because they are uneconomic. That is not the case. The problem is the way that British Coal has been allowed to run them with too many men. The politicians are to blame," Mr Parker said.

Monktonhall will never again provide jobs for thousands. The community has fragmented. But there is still a lot of optimism. What has happened at Monktonhall is regarded by many as a blueprint for the future of coalmining in Britain.



Colliers' hopes plummet in the town without jobs

BY PAUL WILKINSON

WHEN the first of the 940 redundant miners from the Vane Tempest pit at Seaham, Co Durham, check in at the job centre next week they will find just 13 local vacancies awaiting them. Five are for registered nurses.

In a town where unemployment is so high there are 100 applicants for every job, working on the staff of the many old people's homes on the town's unlovely seaford seems to be the only boom industry left.

After the mine closes next Friday taxi driving will be the biggest single employment. Steve Allen, 36, married with three young children, bailed out early from Vane Tempest two years ago when British Coal started making noises about its poor performance. Even then taxi driving was the only prospect for work locally.

"It was leave Seaham or get a job on the taxi," he said. "I can just about get by, but Seaham doesn't need another 900 taxi drivers. Unfortunately that will be the only choice for the majority of men made redundant."

Durham car dealers have

seen it all before. In the 'Eighties when British Steel closed its works not far away at Consett, sales of new cars rocketed as the steelmen spent redundancy money on their first new car. Six months later when the cash was gone, taking a mini cab to town was cheaper than the buses and prices for almost new cars were at rock bottom.

Seaham has seen the writing on the wall for some time.

Two neighbouring collieries closed last year and the local branch of the NUM was told last June that Vane's thin seams and geologically unreliable reserves made closure inevitable.

Its shafts run up to six miles out to sea and miners can waste up to an hour reaching the face on slow-moving "land riders". Drilling to locate new reserves at sea costs up to £1 million a borehole.

People had hoped that the axe would not fall until next summer, so the shut-down

ordered for next Friday has shattered them.

Joe Robson, the NUM branch secretary, has spent 30 years at the mine. He is the fifth generation of his family to work in Vane Tempest and his great grandfather was the first union secretary.

"I am totally numb, it has come so quickly," he said. "Tough men have wept and the sadness will continue because the heart has been ripped out of Seaham." Roy Neville, who runs an electrical shop in the town, predicts a Christmas spending bonanza followed by total depression.

"It would be a brave man who would say there would be no further job losses in the town. Once the money has been spent there will be no work for anyone and more jobs must go."

Next week British Coal launches a programme of counselling for its redundant workforce, giving advice on its retraining schemes and assistance in the search for new jobs. But there are few in Seaham who are confident of a regular wage packet by Christmas.

Lost tribe trapped in valley of death

THE flat patch of land, at the top of the valley, is now completely grassed over and, as you look around, you cannot see a house or a single person. Down below is a chuckling river and further up the valley a trout-filled reservoir.

It is difficult to believe that Maerdy colliery, a huge, filthy mine with broken windows, stood on this spot only three years ago. This was the last pit in the famous Rhondda Valley, which became the centre of attention during the miners' strike of 1984 but was closed soon after.

The mineshaft has been filled in and all traces of it erased from the landscape. Down the valley, towards the small village, are the signs of a community which is on its knees and dying fast. The huge Welfare Hall, once the buzzing centre of the community—boasting an impressive Marxist library—is broken-jawed, with holes in the roof. After many break-ins the main door is now of cast-iron, and the one-armed bandit, repeatedly robbed, is in an iron cage. The library has long gone and the talk is that the hall, run at a loss, will soon be closed.

Coloured alarm boxes are sprouting all along the faces of the carving terraces. Only some ten years ago this village was virtually crime-free. Now,

some elderly women, such as Dilly Evans of Ceridwen Street, now sleep on sofas pushed up against their front door. Housewives lock their front doors when they clean upstairs. Other women have lain in bed at night listening to burglars scuffling around like rats downstairs but are too afraid to confront them. In one burglary they not only made off with the carpet but the guard dog too.

All the windows of the old police station have been smashed and the inside vandalised. Roof tiles are routinely stolen. The church has been broken into and the bells taken. The windows of all the shops are galled.

One place doing a roaring trade is the doctors' surgery—the only modern, purpose-built building in Maerdy. Although they might have to wait two or three weeks for an appointment, men and women throng seeking relief from depression. Old miners sit around in the waiting room, kneading their chests and fighting for breath, wondering what has befallen

them. These valleys have the highest premature death rates in Europe. The main killers are cancer, heart attacks, hyper-tension and respiratory diseases caused by lung infections.

Such political leadership as these people had has long gone, more interested in EC jobs in Brussels. Once, the church and chapels would have given moral guidance to a beleaguered community. Now they have become empty shells. The mighty chapel and socialist movements created these people but now they are a lost and wandering tribe, believing in little more than drink and television.

By night barely anything moves in Maerdy's streets except the skinheads who gather in the luminous glow of the chip shop and the newspapers which are blown around by the wind. There is electronic gunfire from a video game.

A few skinheads break off from the group to kick a tin can up the pavement before stopping to turn around and kick it back again. Often they

sniff glue and urinate in doorways. The elderly shake their heads and worry what to do about it. The younger ones shake their heads too but don't care as long as it is not their video that's stolen.

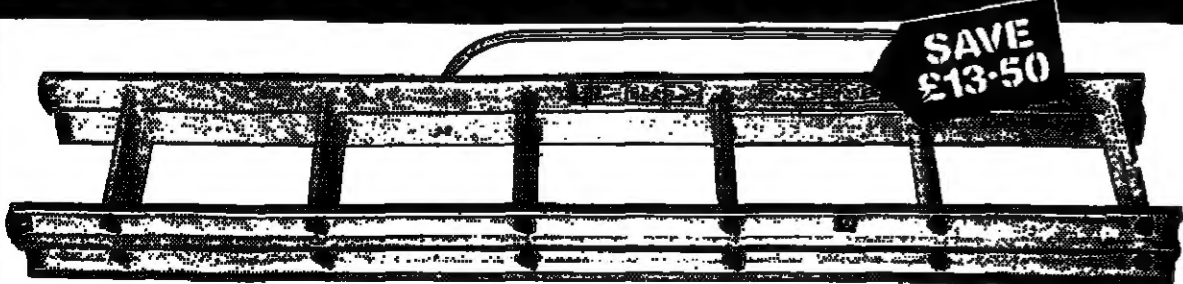
Later in the night the sound of the bingo caller carries out of the Welfare Hall, as all along the terraces, the flickering blue lights of the television dance in the foaming lace curtains of the front windows. Heads and eyes sit spellbound behind locked and double-locked doors.

These people of Maerdy are dying in a long, hard season of crime, poverty and fear. Since the pit closed they have lost everything. They have lost their wealth, their health, their faith, their jobs and, most important of all, their dignity. They do not have a single thing going for them. You just know, deep in your heart, that if the Coal Board could have grassed them over, along with their pit, and forgotten about them too, it would have done so in a flash.

Meanwhile my people sit bewitched by their televisions as the dogs of lawlessness howl outside every home. They drink too much and their marriages are breaking down. Only their depression and confusion reminds them that they are still alive as they now all wait, with some impatience, to die.



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Building industry predicts 120,000 more workers to go

Construction chiefs say only a cut in interest rates can avert a countrywide escalation of unemployment

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

THE government's troubles as a result of pit closures are about to be compounded by figures showing that some 120,000 jobs will be lost in construction this year and that the housing market is in free-fall, building industry leaders warned last night.

Ministers are also bracing themselves for the loss of thousands of jobs in the health service after the publication of the Tomlinson report on London hospital services.

The House Builders' Federation's latest survey on activity in the housing market shows a near 50 per cent drop in activity in the new homes market on last year. The Building Employers' Confederation is predicting that some 50,000 jobs—nearly twice the number that will go in the mining industry—will be lost in the industry between June and the end of this year. An average of 580 construction jobs have been lost on every single working day for the three years between June 1989 and June 1992.

The figures are being cited by building industry leaders as they try to put the pressure on the government to make a substantial cut in interest rates, taking advantage of Britain's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. The Federation, attempting to "expose the quick objections

JOB CUTS

to lower interest rates", is trying to counter the government's argument that they will rekindle inflation.

It says the claim that renewed inflation is inevitable overlooks the current economic realities. The slackness in the housing market and the economy in general leaves

considerable room to increase activity and to permit growth without any significant price effects for some time, it says. David Holliday, president of the House Builders' Federation, said the industry, which had suffered a "dire" five years, was still in recession.

Housing starts, 214,000 five years ago, were down to 125,000 this year. He said: "We should be selling houses. They are more affordable than for 20 years. Mortgage rates are low and house prices are low. The reason we are not doing so is a total lack of confidence in our customers. There are two reasons for this: falling asset prices and fear of unemployment. We cannot see any upturn."

There were expected to be only one million house transactions this year, half the figure in 1988, he added. The industry is fearful that the current tough public spending round will further damage its prospects. The Jubilee line Underground extension, school and hospital building, road schemes and, perhaps most critically, the £2 billion earmarked for the Housing Corporation for housing association projects, are all believed to be under threat.

Meanwhile Labour has claimed that at least 100,000 jobs are likely to be axed as a result of the rundown of the coal industry, adding £675 million to an unemployment bill already costing the taxpayer £25 billion.

Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry spokesman, said that thousands more jobs would go on top of the 30,000 already announced, in directly related areas such as private contractors working in maintenance and firms making mining equipment. In addition, 10,000 rail freight jobs and those of 5,000 lorry drivers were likely to be axed, as well as 5,000 jobs from coal-fired power stations.

Frank Dobson, shadow employment secretary, released a list of 61 mining-equipment companies where jobs were threatened as a result of the pit closures. The firms are based throughout the country in areas such as Basingstoke, Gloucester, Worcester, Rugby and Chippingham, well outside mining communities. Every unemployed person cost £9,000 in benefits and unpaid taxes, said Mr Dobson. The total extra cost to the taxpayer, including related job losses, would be £575 million in addition to the £1.5 billion in redundancy money.

Peter Hain, MP for Neath and secretary of the Tribune group of Labour MPs, said the party and the TUC should back any campaign of active resistance. "The labour movement cannot take this savage attack lying down. If miners and others, such as rail workers facing privatisation and those in the public sector facing a pay freeze, take united action, then Labour and the TUC should stand alongside them — on picket lines if necessary."

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Jobs fallout sends Tories reeling

Continued from page 1 of the redundancy package for miners, which is worth up to £37,000 a head.

In another blow to the government, Ford announced that it was stopping production of its Transit van in Southampton for a week because of falling sales. The main worry for the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues was, however, the Tory hostility to the closures.

Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, the former cabinet minister, said that the country was on the brink of a slump worse than that in the 1930s, and Sir Rhodes Boyson, another former minister, called for a 4 per cent cut in lending rates.

Cabinet ministers replied that the recession was worldwide and they were trying to ease the suffering. Tony Newton, the Commons leader, hinted at modest rate cuts soon by pointing to the 6 per cent fall over the past two years. "The direction the government has been seeking to move has been clear from what it has said and from what it has done," he said on Radio 4.

From the centre-left of the party, Winston Churchill, MP for Daventry, and Elizabeth Peacock, MP for Batley and Spen, appealed to Mr Heseltine to halt the pit closures. Mr Churchill wrote expressing his "grave alarm" at the government's decision to rubber-stamp the closures. He said it made no sense economically because it would cost the taxpayer far more to make the miners unemployed than to keep them in work. Mrs Peacock said she opposed to closures because a dependence on imported coal would allow other countries to hold Britain to ransom.

Some of the most savage criticism came from John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North. He said he could no longer go on telling hundreds of constituents facing unemployment over the next few months to bite the bullet. The situation was immediate and desperate and demanded immediate and desperate action.

Redundancy payouts create financial trap for the unwary

By Lin Jenkins

THE prospect of another job for redundant miners is at best poor and often non-existent. But there are plenty of individuals and organisations offering help, some of whom do not have the miners' interests at heart.

British Coal Enterprises (BCE) restricts its role to coaching new employers to the coalfields and helping former miners to retrain and find work. The "self-help" package it gives to those laid off contains a video cassette, audio tape and handbook with advice on retraining, looking for work and the best way to conduct oneself at an interview.

It fails to mention financial planning.

Research over the past two years around Doncaster has identified numerous financial problems for redundant miners. Bella Dix, of Sheffield

AFTERMATH

Hallam University, says that many took the advice to pay off their mortgages and now find that they cannot sell their homes and move away. "They are also extremely vulnerable to loan sharks. It is not unusual to find them paying 40 to 50 per cent interest."

Others tried not to touch their redundancy money, but to put it in savings. "They found that after a year they had to spend it since they cannot get the dole or income support if they have savings over £3,000," she said.

The research, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, is not yet complete, but initial findings suggest that poor financial management is at the root of many problems

encountered by those who lost their livelihoods.

"It is important to realise the trap of the redundancy payment. It really creates as many problems as it solves," she said.

Roland Stevenson, a miner straight from school 24 years ago who took the Coal Board's offer of college study, became a manager and then joined BCE when his pit closed three years ago. He is now northern and Scotland regional manager of BCE. He said that many ex-miners had come from a sheltered background and that financial advice was strange to them. "With up to £40,000 in a lump for the first time in their lives, they are likely to believe what they are told or promised."

Steve Fothergill, director of the Coalfield Communities Campaign, representing 92 local authorities in the coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales, believes that BCE should extend its role to cover proper financial advice.

"The problems of creating work, or finding miners jobs is huge. Even where they do succeed, it often simply means there is a labour market displacement and younger people without experience and a work record find themselves jobless as the work has gone to ex-miners. For many laid off, the best help would be proper advice on what to do with their money."

Supporters cry drift

Continued from page 1 big cutbacks on spending in sensitive areas, including social security and training, as well as a virtual freeze on public-sector pay. Ministers are braced for strikes in the public sector as a result of the freeze and cutbacks.

The government's other headaches are the ratification of the Maastricht treaty and the introduction of the council

tax and the system of community care from April. Each threatens bad headlines for Mr Major, and probably bad results in local council elections in May and in any parliamentary by-elections. Faced by this gloom, however, the main consolation for Mr Major, as one Labour leader acknowledged yesterday, is that a general election could still be 4½ years away.



Flying visit: Mr Heseltine touring the Westland factory in Yeovil yesterday, where he avoided a barrage of questions about pit closures

Companies told to save themselves

By Kate Alderson

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade board president, had little joy to offer Britain's business leaders yesterday when he told them to "go back to the drawing board" to try to increase Britain's competitiveness.

Addressing more than 800 delegates at the annual conference of the Small Business Bureau in Surrey, he said: "You have been beaten about. Life is tough."

"I won't spell out the harsher manifestations of what that means in terms of creditors and bank managers, because I know what that experience is like. And yet I am standing before you as a minister and saying, 'Look, you have got to go back to the drawing board, you have got to look at the costs again and you have got to contain inflationary pressure.'"

He added: "I have no choice but to say it, because there is no room for complacency."

Many of the business leaders present had been expecting an announcement of policy designed to revive the economy. Mr Heseltine said that he recognised the myriad of problems facing small businesses, but said: "There is a very clear point beyond which government cannot go in helping you with problems. And there is a point beyond which you do not want government to go in helping you with your problems, because in the end being in business is down to you. Success or failure starts and ends here."

He hit out at requests for increased state help. "What my department would never

be is a sort of cosy soft option, a place for the moaners of life, for the people who have got problems, the people who come along and think they are going to pick up a bit of cash or they are going to be able to persuade us to give a bit of a subsidy."

He said that this helped no one and simply used up scarce resources "to prop up the weak for a little longer."

Britain was living through the trauma of international

BUSINESS

recession, he said, and added that there was "no escape from it, except to keep our nerve and to pursue the policies on which recovery depends".

These policies, Mr Heseltine said, included lowering the price further of British goods for export, increasing exports, and for bigger companies to become successful and to continue the fight against inflation.

He also announced the setting up of 50 "one-stop shops" throughout Britain which will provide advice and help for businesses under one roof.

Delegates welcomed this initiative but expressed disappointment that towns and cities would have to compete for funding to establish the shops.

Mr Heseltine praised Japanese management and asked business people to look at their methods and open up dialogue with workers.



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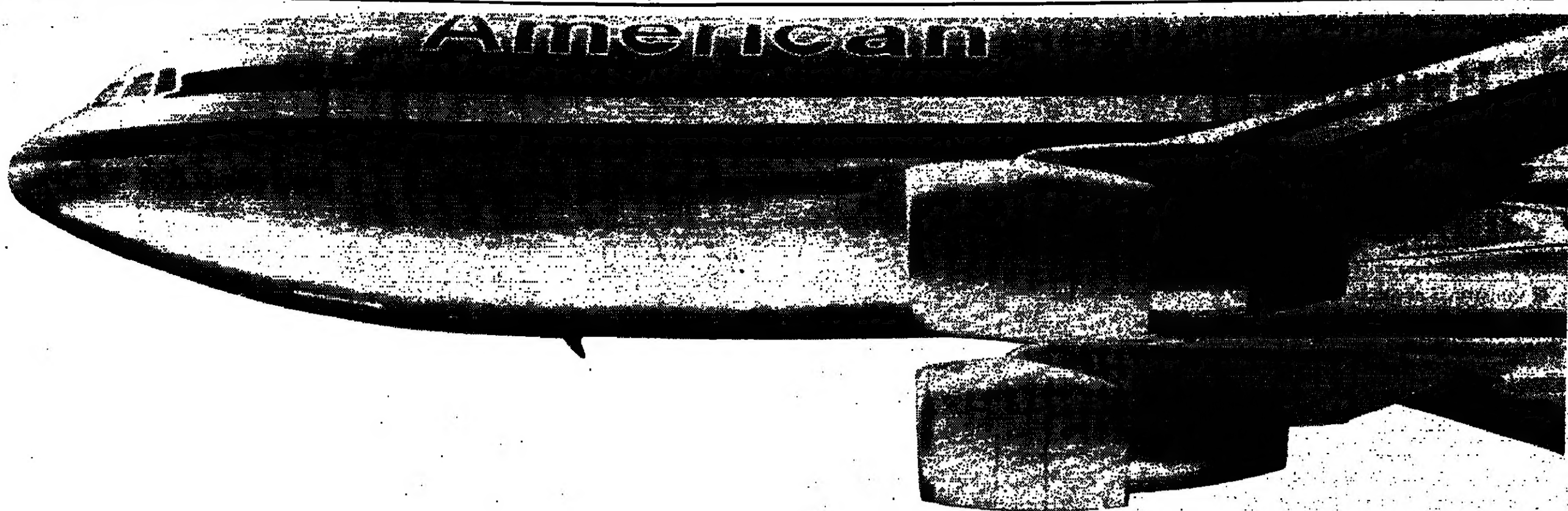
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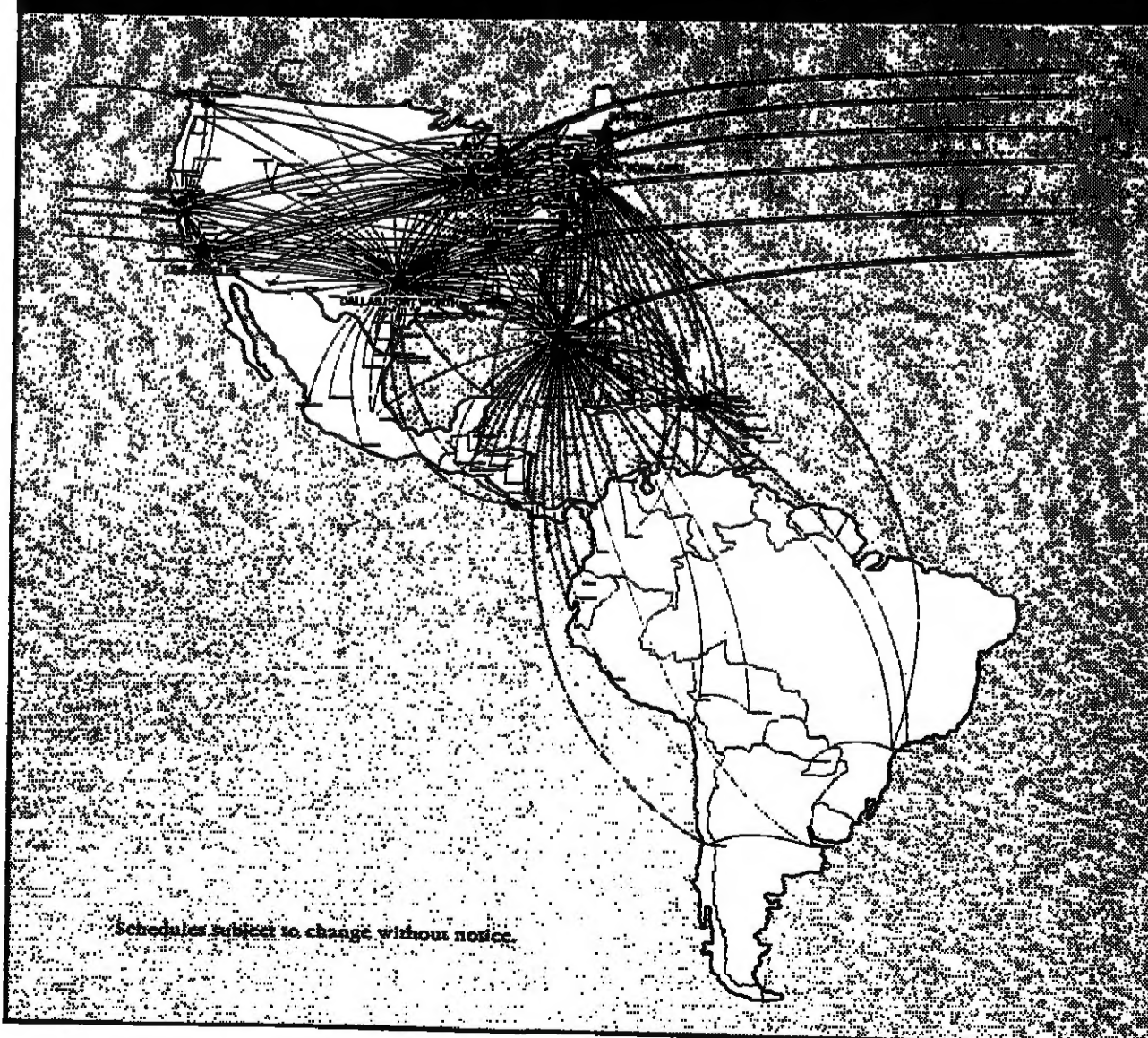
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John 10:10

Caesarean decision 'reduces women to walking wombs'

The debate over a woman's right to control her body has been reignited by a decision ordering a caesarean section

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE'S decision to order a woman to have a caesarean operation in an attempt to save the life of her unborn child was criticised by doctors and lawyers yesterday who said that it undermined the rights of women over their bodies.

Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College London, and the country's leading expert on law and medicine, described it as an "epoch-making" decision for pregnant women. "It has massive implications for the status of women, in regarding them as chattels and ambulatory wombs," he said. "It is so potentially intrusive as to reduce women back to the status of slaves."

Joe Jordan, consultant obstetrician at Birmingham and Midland Women's hospital and spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetricians, said that the judgment was bound to raise concern. "Are we now looking at the possibility of mothers being forced to have medical interventions in the interests of their babies?" he said. "What about mothers who jeopardise the health of their babies in other ways: by smoking, for example."

The unnamed 30-year-old woman underwent the operation at a London hospital on Monday after Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, gave surgeons permission to go ahead following an emergency hearing in the High Court. The baby died but the mother survived, although she

is in a serious condition. When admitted to hospital, she had ruptured membranes and was in labour. The baby was lying transversely in her womb in a position that made it impossible to deliver. The surgeons said that her plight, and that of her unborn child, were desperate and a caesarean was their only hope. The woman, a mother of two and a "born-again" Christian, objected to the operation on religious grounds, although these were not spelt out.

Because of the urgency of the case, Sir Stephen made his decision after a hearing lasting 22 minutes. Professor Kennedy, who described the judgment as ill-considered, said it was unfortunate that it was made without a debate. The issue to be decided was how far the courts should go in seeking to control the behaviour of pregnant women by saying that they should not smoke, drink or otherwise behave in ways that might damage the foetus. "We can have a moral debate about that, but the law should keep out of it," he said.

In America, drug addict mothers in some states have been jailed for three months before their babies are due to ensure that they are born drug-free. In about 50 cases, caesareans have been ordered by the courts to save the foetus, against the mother's wishes. In one case a mother terminally ill with cancer wanted to have her baby naturally so that she could hold it before she died, but her obstetrician ar-

gued that a caesarean was necessary to save the baby, even though the anaesthetic was likely to kill the mother. The court ruled that the operation should go ahead but the baby survived only two hours. The ruling was later overturned. Professor Kennedy said.

The British Medical Association said that it was confused by the case because "it appears that the refusal of treatment even by a mentally competent individual can be disallowed". The Medical Defence Union, the doctors' defence body, said that it would always stand behind a doctor who chose to intervene to save life, provided that the patient had been given enough information to make a reasoned decision.



In better shape: a 157ft-long relief map of Scotland, with 5ft mountains, after restoration by Sam Docherty, a film maker. He spotted the overgrown map at the Barony Castle Hotel in Eddleston, Borders, from the air

Cameras will trap speeding drivers

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A NETWORK of speed cameras, designed to boost the number of prosecutions of motorists who drive too quickly, will be inaugurated by Steven Norris, transport under-secretary, in London today.

The new cameras, which eventually will be introduced throughout Britain, have been set up at the capital's worst blackspots to reduce accidents by encouraging drivers to slow down.

Under the provisions of the Road Traffic Act, which became effective in July, speeding motorists can now be prosecuted on the basis of camera evidence alone. Previously, camera evidence was acceptable in court only when accompanied by the testimony of a police officer.

Electronic road sensors measure the time taken for a vehicle to travel between them. If the speed is too fast, this triggers the camera which then takes pictures of the registration number.

A £40 fixed penalty notice is then sent out to the registered owner of the vehicle, who is required by law to pay the fine or name the driver. Failure to do either could result in a court

appearance, a maximum penalty of £1,000, discretionary disqualification or three penalty points.

Like the cameras used to prosecute motorists who jump traffic lights, speed cameras can be moved from one blackspot to another. The police also intend to use dummy cameras so that motorists can never be sure where cameras are operating. Signs warning that speed cameras are in operation will be installed near each camera, although individual cameras will not be identified.

The cameras, which reflect a growing reliance on electronic technology to regulate driver behaviour, are being introduced because of an evident decline in driving standards. Transport officials are confident that they will help cut speed-related accidents.

Welcoming the introduction of the new technology, an AA spokesman said the initiative had its complete backing, after confirmation by the Home Office that the police would cross-check details of colour, make and model with a vehicle's registration document before issuing a fixed penalty notice.

Triad oath 'stronger than fear'

PLOT to shoot a Hong Kong businessman in London's Chinatown during an alleged Chinese Triads over struggle nearly failed when the gunman lost his nerve at the last moment, an old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

But the gunman, Wai Hen Heung, decided to be loyal to the oath he had taken to the Hui Fong Triads and shot am Ying Kit twice in the pine at close range. Martin Ilesop said for the prosecution.

The prosecution alleges that Ar Lam was believed to be involved in an attempt to take over the leadership of the Hui Fong Triads in Britain.

The prosecution alleges that the Chinese plotted the shooting. The six, Wai Ming Tang, of Astley, Manchester, Shui Heung Wan, of Holloway, north London, Tak Kam Chow, of Southgate, north London, Chong Chi Chan, of Highfields, near Sheffield, Wai Yuen Liu, of Southampton and Wai Wan Ho, 41, of Maida Vale, northwest London, deny conspiracy to inflict grievous bodily harm. The case continues today.

Children's TV starts alarmingly

YOUNG viewers will get "a wake-up call" at 7.30 each weekday morning with a special programme called *Alarm Alert* on GMTV, which replaces TV-am as the ITV breakfast licensee on January 1 (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Alarm Alert will keep children aged six to 14 up to date with the latest news about soaps, pop stars, fashions, toys, computer games and films for ten minutes each weekday morning. During half-term and school holidays, children will also get a "lively, anarchic programme" between 8.50am and 9.25am called *It's NOT!*

Saturday morning viewing will begin with a magazine programme from 6am to 7.30am called *Rise and Shine*, which will feature the wildlife series *Bush School*, the puppet series *Rosie and Jim* and the cartoons *Muppet Babies* and *Ric*. This will be followed by *Saturday Disney* and, at 8.55am, *Teen Win Lose or Draw*.

There will be entertainment for toddlers on Sunday mornings from 6.30 until 7.30am and then more cartoons at 8.50am.

Coronation Street 'is relic of 1950s'

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE television soap opera *Coronation Street* is a relic of the Macmillan era and bears little resemblance to modern society, Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said yesterday.

Launching the council's working paper on the portrayal of ethnic minorities on television, Lord Rees-Mogg said that the show did not have enough blacks or Asians in it. "Most people prefer the past to the present, but perhaps one day the street will be visited by the type of people who would now actually live there," he said. "*Coronation Street* is living in the Harold Macmillan era and, although we would all prefer to have him as prime minister, unfortunately he is no longer available."

Newer soaps, such as *EastEnders*, were likely to have a more representative ethnic mix, he said. Although programme-makers were becoming more conscious of avoiding racial

stereotypes, positive change would not come until ethnic minorities were given the chance to climb the broadcasting ladder.

The working paper found that most British viewers hold stereotypical views about the sort of television roles for which people from different ethnic groups would be suited. Respondents were given 42 photographs depicting characters of all ages and ethnic origins, and a list of seven roles, and asked whether any characters would seem out of place in a role. Over half the non-white characters were considered inappropriate to present a documentary about rural England.

Blacks, Asians and other ethnic minorities account for 5.9 per cent of the population of Greater Manchester, according to the city council. In Salford, where *Coronation Street* is set, they account for 2.2 per cent.

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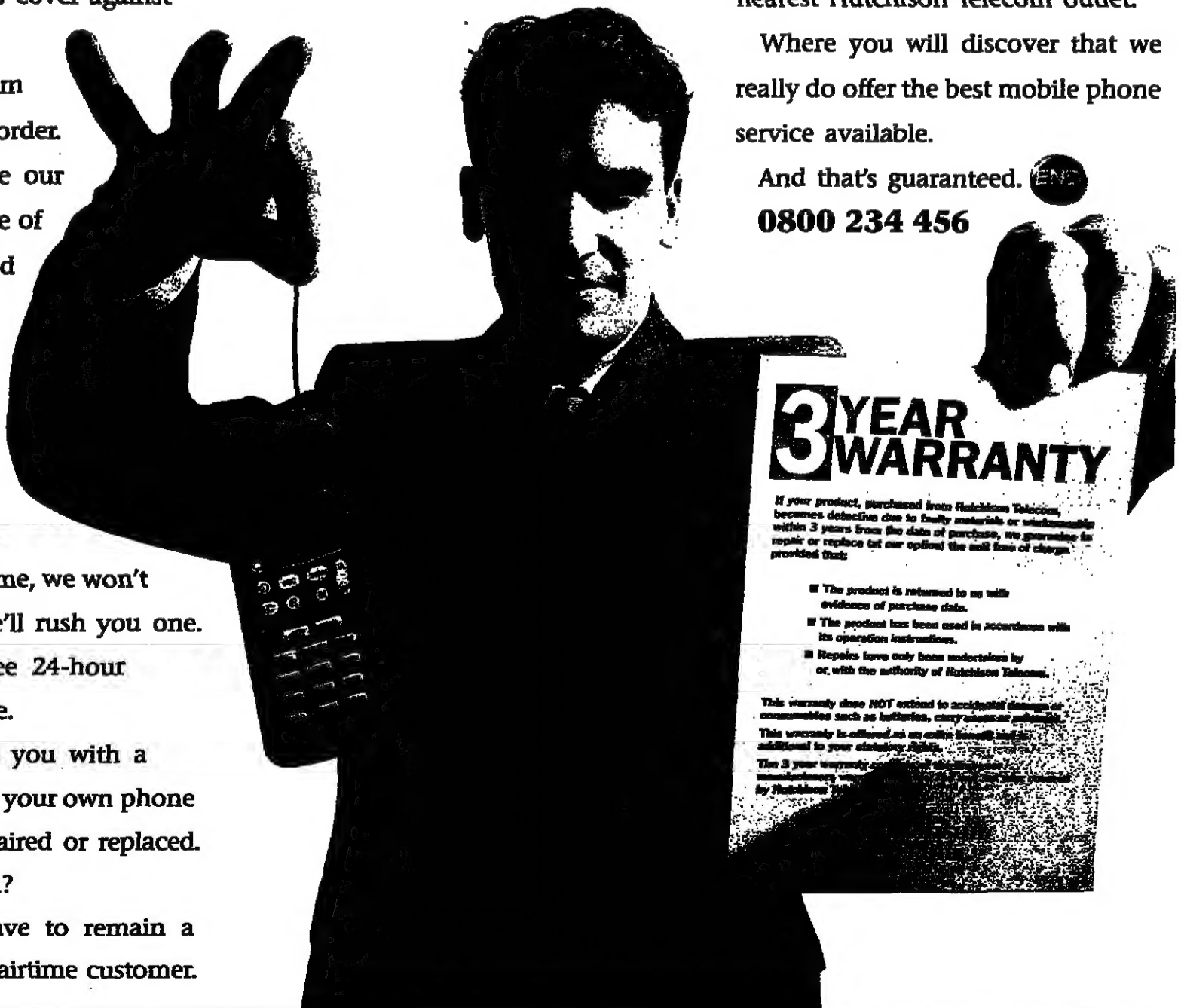
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Rogue genes blamed for mystery heart attacks

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE who have heart attacks in spite of following all the rules of healthy living have only their genes to blame. French scientists reported yesterday.

They have found that a common genetic anomaly may explain why heart attacks often strike down people who are thin, have low cholesterol levels, do not smoke, and take regular exercise. Such attacks have always been a puzzle to doctors.

The finding has extraordinary clinical implications, according to Dr Theodore Kurtz of the University of California in San Francisco. "The potential impact of these studies and many others that will follow cannot

be overstated," he writes in this week's issue of *Nature*, where the French results are also published.

The finding may be the basis for a test that could predict more accurately those at risk of heart attacks. In addition, it helps to explain clinical results published last month which showed a sharp reduction in heart attacks among people treated with a drug that inhibits the action of an enzyme called angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE).

Dr Francois Cambien of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Paris and colleagues report today that heart attack victims, especially those without any of the recognised risk factors, have higher levels of ACE in the blood than

controls. That is because they possess two copies of a gene that appears to control the amount of ACE produced. A total of 610 heart attack survivors and a comparable number of controls from Belfast, Lille, Strasbourg and Toulouse were examined by the team, which included Dr Alun Evans of Queen's University, Belfast. The results show that those who had suffered heart attacks were significantly more likely to have the genetic variant that produced higher levels of ACE. Among people who would be considered at low risk by normal criteria, the association was particularly striking.

Precisely how high levels of ACE lead to more heart attacks has yet to be shown, but the enzyme is known to

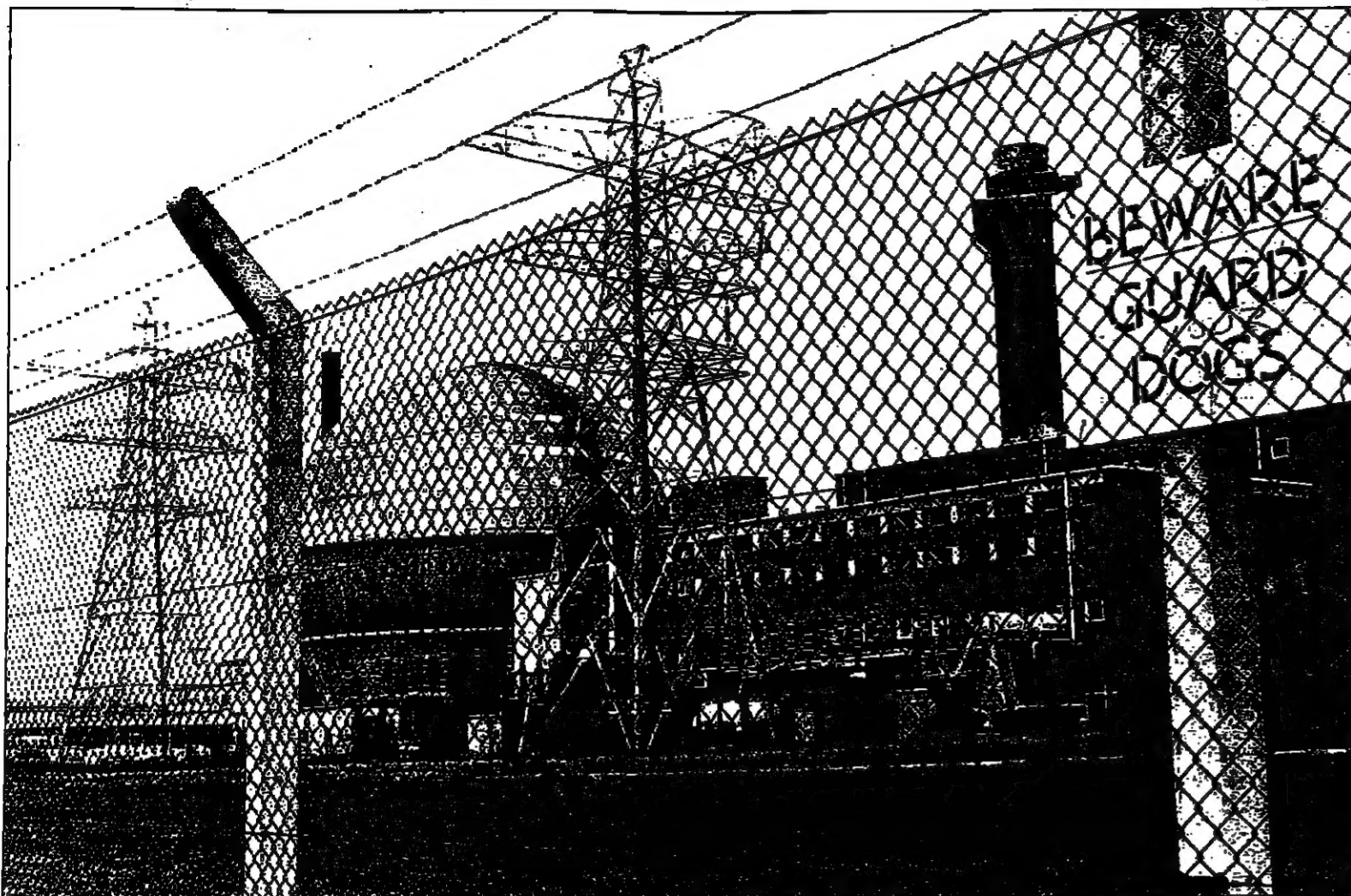
be involved in the production of a peptide that makes the blood vessels constrict, and the destruction of one that makes them dilate. The supposition is that people with high ACE levels are likely to suffer from more constricted arteries, increasing the chances of heart attacks.

Drugs already exist which inhibit the action of ACE, and last month Dr Marc Pfeffer of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* the result of a trial showing that ACE-inhibitors both reduce the risk of heart attacks and prolong the lives of those who have had heart attacks and start taking the drugs several days later. Dr Pfeffer says that result opens the way to use ACE-inhibitors

as preventative drugs among those at risk. The French findings could be used to identify the people most likely to benefit from such treatment.

Hitherto, "ACE-inhibitors" have been given to people with high blood-pressure because they reduce constriction in blood vessels. The latest findings suggest they could be much more useful than that. American doctors believe that ACE-inhibitors could save thousands of lives a year, even if they were used only to treat patients who had already had one attack. If they were used as a form of prevention the potential could be greater.

Mind and body, page 15



Source of contention: a reactor at Sellafield in Cumbria. Families claim radiation from the plant caused their children's cancers

Sellafield families to launch £10m test case

Next week an English court will begin a marathon hearing to test for the first time the concept of genetic damage

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first two claims on behalf of families alleging that their children's cancers were caused by radiation from Sellafield come before the High Court this month in what is expected to be a record-breaking legal action costing up to £10 million.

The case opens on October 26 and is expected to be the longest, most expensive and complex civil action the courts have seen, ranking in expense and time with recent mammoth fraud trials and with an estimated time of six months. By comparison the claims over whooping cough vaccine lasted 12 weeks.

It has been three years in preparation and is expected to bring an unprecedented battle over scientific evidence. Either side will call 25 scientists, and more than 100 scientists' reports from Japan, the US, Holland, Germany, Sweden and elsewhere will be used in evidence.

More than half a million pages of documents have been assembled and room is being

cleared in court 14 of the Royal Courts of Justice for stacks upon stacks of box files for the judge, Mr Justice French, and the parties.

The two test claims, both legally-aided, are being watched by 40 others waiting in the wings. The first is being brought by Elizabeth Reay, of Whitehaven, whose child Dorothy died of leukaemia in 1962 aged 10 months.

Her late father, George, worked at the plant as a fitter for more than 20 years and suffered one of the highest radiation doses of any of the workers. He died of cancer in the mid-1980s.

The second case is that of Vivien Hope, diagnosed as suffering from a lymphoma in 1988, aged 23. She has been treated but chemotherapy has left her permanently disabled and sterile. Her father David also worked at the plant as a fitter for more than 20 years until his retirement in the late 1980s. The family live at Seascale.

The claims breaks new

ground on several fronts. Legally, it will be the first in Britain to test the theory of genetic damage. The hurdle the claimants have to surmount is causation: the link between the radiation and the father's sperm leading to leukaemia in the children.

If successful, the cases may pave the way for other people who allege genetic damage from toxic substances.

For both sides, the case has involved massive preparation. The firm mounting the claims is Leigh Day & Co, where partners Martyn Day and Richard Meenan have been working at full stretch with a team of assistants.

Mr Day said: "We got legal aid in 1989 and have been working towards this for just over three years. I have slowly had to give up doing anything else and for the last year I have done nothing else."

British Nuclear Fuels, which robustly resists the claims as "totally unfounded", has instructed the leading City law firm Freshfields.

Scientists divided on leukaemia link

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTIFIC issues in the case are among the most complex any court has yet ruled on. No scientific consensus exists over the causes of leukaemia clusters and the evidence is contradictory.

The plaintiffs will seek to show that the large incidence of leukaemia around Sellafield is a direct result of radiation from the plant. They do not have to prove negligence because the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 imposes strict liability on the industry not to cause injury to people or property.

Central to the case will be the 1990 report by Professor Martin Gardner of Southampton University, who showed that fathers who had had a high radiation dose while working at the plant were six to eight times more likely to father children who subsequently contracted the disease. The implication was that the radiation damaged the sperm and that damage was transferred to the foetus.

The plaintiffs are expected to cite Japanese experiments showing that irradiation of mice caused excess cancers in direct offspring and further generations. There is also evidence that exposure to X-rays can increase cancers in the children of those exposed.

Against this, the defendants appear likely to cite a wide range of opposing studies. The children of atom bomb survivors at Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed no increased cancers: there were, indeed, fewer. Leukaemia clusters have been found where there is no radiation, and many places where there is radiation show no clusters.

Canadian researchers, who examined childhood leukaemias between 1950 and 1988 around five nuclear facilities, found no association between leukaemia and the exposure of fathers to radiation. Earlier studies in the US and France reached similar negative conclusions.

To try to resolve the impasse, Dr Leo Kinlen of Edinburgh University has suggested that the clusters are caused by the migration of populations to new settlements. This could be explained if leukaemia is caused by an infective agent (as feline leukaemias are). New people moving into an area might carry an agent to which the locals lacked immunity, causing a temporary increase.

A European-wide study of childhood leukaemia after the 1986 Chernobyl accident has shown no increase in the disease.

Mother threw baby into lake

A woman walked free from court yesterday after she admitted allowing her newborn baby to die and throwing the body into a lake.

Victoria Pay, 21, was put on probation for two years after the prosecution accepted her plea of guilty to infanticide. She had denied murdering the unnamed 7lb girl minutes after she was born in September last year.

Nigel Mylne QC, for the prosecution, said that Pay, of Dartford, Kent, had concealed her pregnancy. After the birth, she put the baby in a rubbish sack and threw it into a lake. It died either from hypothermia, drowning or asphyxia.

Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, sentencing her at the Old Bailey, told Pay: "It would not be in your interest or the public's to send you to prison."

Date set for Hatton trial

The trial of Derek Hatton, former deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, on conspiracy charges will take place outside the city, a judge has ruled. It will begin at Mold Crown Court, Clwyd, on January 12.

Mr Hatton, 44, of Childwall, Liverpool, denies seven charges of conspiracy to defraud the city council. Six co-defendants face conspiracy charges. The trial is expected to last up to nine months.

Rail fares to rise by 8%

British Rail and London Transport will today announce fare increases substantially above inflation. Some may be up to 8 per cent.

Priorities for ordinary, season and cheap day return tickets will rise, but most saver tickets are likely to remain the same. The increases are needed to help to off-set a fall in income.

PC killed

PC Chris Wiggins, 25, of Boreham, Essex, died when a lorry hit his stationary patrol car on the M25 between Harlow and Brentwood on Tuesday night. He and a colleague had stopped to put warning cones around a burning car.

Man raped

A man aged 19 was raped on Hampstead Heath, northwest London, by three men who abducted him from an Underground train at gunpoint. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident about 6.30pm on Tuesday.

Cancer payout

David Jones, of Barry, South Glamorgan, and his son Vaughan, 8, were awarded £122,500 damages by the High Court after doctors in Leicestershire failed to diagnose cervical cancer in Mr Jones's wife, Karen, in 1983. She died in 1986.

Rescue prize

Two helicopter crews who rescued 48 Russians from a factory ship off the west of Scotland last December were awarded the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society's annual rescue trophy.

Wrestler dies

Kevin Corley, 46, a wrestler from Manchester, died after collapsing during a contest at Lewisham Theatre, southeast London, on Tuesday night.

Ship grant

English Heritage is to grant £50,000 for the excavation of a Bronze Age ship uncovered during road works in Dover, Kent, last month.

Soccer auction

Memorabilia belonging to Bill Foulkes, a former Manchester United footballer, fetched nearly £35,000 at auction in Glasgow.

Chief retires

Peter Nobes, 57, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, is to retire in January.

Church 'must end' state patronage

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister's power of patronage in some senior Church of England jobs should end, a working party's report says today. It criticises the secretive and idiosyncratic methods of appointment.

The report, which recommends transferring the power to appoint suffragan bishops and deans from the prime minister to the archbishops of Canterbury and York, is certain to arouse debate about the relationship between church and state.

Frank Field MP, a dissenting member of the working party, condemned the report as sectarian and said its proposals would take the church further down the road to disestablishment. He called for a more open appointment system, but with the Crown's influence intact.

The two archbishops, Dr George Carey and Dr John Habgood, issued a statement yesterday saying that they had not sought an enhanced role. They called for a careful examination of the "important and complex issues" raised by the report about the

Queen's inseparable roles as head of state and supreme governor of the church.

A consultative process exists already to appoint diocesan bishops and archbishops, through the Crown Appointments Commission, set up in 1977. Leading churchmen are increasingly concerned that a prime minister with no Christian affiliation could choose who gets other senior jobs.

Bishops are usually drawn from the existing pool of suffragan bishops, archdeacons and deans. Most senior clerical vacancies are never advertised.

Overt ambition in the church is frowned upon as inimical to a true vocation. Talented clergy can languish for years in junior posts because their faces do not fit. Where promotion is gained, it is often by a series of complex manoeuvres, with the spiritual calling juggling against temporal needs.

Senior Church Appointments (Church House Publishing, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ; £7.50)

London salaries buy the least

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

PEOPLE in the South East have the lowest quality of life in Britain while those in Scotland and the North have the highest, according to a survey published today.

The survey, based on relative spending power, finds that Greater London is the most expensive place to live. Although salaries are greater than the national average in London and the South East, the benefits are offset by higher costs of living, the Reward Group's six-monthly survey says. Middle managers in London earn 16.5 per cent

more than the national average but the region's cost of living is 19.5 per cent higher. Scots are judged to have a better quality of life because they earn 1.9 per cent more than average but pay 2.3 per cent less.

Next to Greater London, Welwyn Garden City and Woking are the most expensive towns in which to live. Northern Ireland, followed by Peterhead in Grampian and Doncaster in the North East, are the cheapest. A Londoner needs to earn 50 per cent more than someone in Belfast

to afford the same range and quality of goods and services.

Figures were calculated by working out the annual expenditure of eight families of four, ranging from one renting a three-bedroom council house without a telephone to one living in a six-bedroom house, with a maid, membership of a golf club and a child at private school. Regional variations in costs were worked out by comparing prices in 114 towns for a number of items, including poll tax, cinema tickets, a garden fork and lunch in a restaurant.

The survey shows that a family with a mortgage for a three-bedroom detached house in London spends £12,483 a year, after housing, while a family in Wales spends £10,397. London families spend the most on leisure and services. Families in East Anglia spend the most on food and household goods, while those in the North spend the most on drink.

The survey also shows that the cost of living continues to fall. Costs for a family of four living in a three-bedroom semi-detached house are 2 per cent less than in August 1991.

Region	Pay compared to national average %	Costs compared to national average %	Quality of life index %
Scotland	+1.9	-2.4	+4.3
East Midlands	-8.5	-6.7	+0.2
North	-5.6	-5.5	-0.1
Yorkshire	-5.6	-4.6	-1.0
Humberside	-6.5	-3.8	-2.7
East Anglia	+16.5	+19.2	-2.7
Greater London	-8.3	-1.5	-4.8
South West	-4.7	+0.7	-5.4
West Midlands	-8.4	-3.3	-6.1
South East	+2.7	+10.8	-8.1

Source: Reward Survey 1992

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Bottomley to decide top hospitals' fate

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE most ambitious programme this century to reshape London's health service, involving the closure or merger of some of the capital's leading teaching hospitals, will be presented to the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, today.

After an enquiry which has lasted a year, Sir Bernard Tomlinson will tell her that four teaching hospitals cannot survive in the new NHS market, that there should be an urgent review of the excessive number of specialist units for services such as radiotherapy, and that there should be a shake-out among research hospitals. He will urge a huge switch of resources into primary and community care.

The delivery of his report, commissioned by the former health secretary, William Waldegrave, will mark the start of three months of ministerial visits and frenzied lobbying by the hospitals. Publication of the report is expected at the end of the month but final decisions will not be made until the new year.

After comparing the costs of running the hospitals, the

state of their buildings and where health authorities intend to place their contracts, Sir Bernard has concluded that the Charing Cross, University College/Middlesex, and St Bartholomew's hospitals must close, merge or be drastically reduced in size. The enquiry panel has found it difficult to decide whether the fourth hospital should be Guy's or St Thomas's but Sir Bernard will say that it would be easier to find an alternative use for St Thomas's buildings.

Nearly half of GPs premises in the capital are below standard, the enquiry found, but the cost of improvements would be less than that of building a new hospital. Expanding primary services would absorb some of the thousands of hospital staff who are expected to lose their jobs if the closures go ahead, but re-training would be needed.

Sir Bernard will say there needs to be a reappraisal of London's specialist hospitals, such as the Royal Marsden cancer hospital and the Royal Brompton heart hospital, some of which have poorer

research records than the teaching hospitals, despite their privileged status. He will confirm the government's plan to bring them into the NHS market, where they will have to compete for patients, but will say they should have a special subsidy to cover the costs of research. There will be no recommendation to cut the number of medical students trained in London, a third of the nation's total.

The programme of closures and mergers will cost hundreds of millions of pounds but Sir Bernard will say that the hospitals will close anyway if the government does not act. One of the most remarkable features of his report is that it calls for planning of services and is opposed to letting the market take its course.

Sir Bernard will call for some decisions to be taken quickly to minimise planning blight. As a priority he will urge a review of specialist units for services such as radiotherapy and marrow transplants, as London has more than twice the number it needs.

Letters, page 17

Expensive sea walls speed up erosion



Land under threat: a disused railway bridge close to the sea wall which protects pastureland and the town of Brightlingsea in Essex

Working with nature is now recognised as the best defence against wind and wave

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EROSION of some of Britain's ecologically most valuable coastal features, including salt marshes, mud flats and sand dunes, is being accelerated by costly man-made defences meant to protect them, says the government's chief conservation agency.

Over the next three decades, on present trends, most of the remaining wildlife habitat along the low-lying shoreline of south and southeastern England could disappear, trapped between naturally rising sea levels and an almost continuous line of rigidly engineered sea walls and flood barriers.

Launching a "campaign for a living coast" in London yesterday, English Nature, the successor in England to the Nature Conservancy Council, called for a new approach using "soft engineering" techniques. These would make more use of natural defences and sometimes would involve a managed retreat to more defensible positions further inland.

Endorsing the new policy, David Macean, the countryside minister, said: "Coastal defence was often seen as opposing the forces of wind and wave head on with hard defences. More recently, as we have learned more about natural coastal processes, the limitations of hard engineering solutions have been recognised."

South and southeastern England is sinking into the sea by a few millimetres each year as the British land mass recovers its equilibrium after the last Ice Age. The resulting rise in sea levels could be exacerbated in the next century by global warming.

Many sea defences are being undercut because the salt marshes, mudflats, sandbars and other natural features that once protected them by dissipating the force of waves have been eroded. An English Nature study last year showed that 20 per cent of salt marshes were lost over the past 15 years, mainly from sea erosion rather than developments such as the building of Felixstowe docks.

Salt marshes are not only a valuable natural defence but also home to specialised plants such as samphire, also known as glasswort, sea aster, sea lavender and sea chub-rush and such birds as redshanks,

curlews and avocets. New hard sea walls can cost up to £5 million a kilometre to build. In 1990-91 alone, the government spent £58 million building and repairing sea defences.

"Managed retreat" could be an option where long and expensively-maintained sea walls are protecting low-lying, narrow strips of poor-quality farmland backed by higher terrain that could form a second line of defence. The agency's solution would be to allow the sea in at a controlled rate up to this second line to form a protective salt marsh or mud flat.

In populated areas or those of high agricultural value, tactical surrender to the sea would be impossible. Here material dredged from harbour channels, now dumped at sea, could be used to build up beaches and mudflats that have been eroded back to the sea wall. One area where such a solution is being considered is Brightlingsea Marsh in Essex, where the sea wall protects valuable pasture and the town of Brightlingsea.



The avocet, whose marsh homes are in danger

English Nature is also concerned that attempts to stabilise cliffs with concrete reinforcement creates problems elsewhere by stopping the natural deposition of material from the eroding cliff base along other parts of the coast, where it helps to form protective beaches and sandbars. The agency would prefer to see cliffs protected by building up beaches in front of them and allowing erosion at a controlled rate.

The agency also aims to have plans in place for 40 of the 80 estuaries in England by the end of the century. They would seek to limit damage caused by industry, commercial fisheries and recreational activities. Some 18 million people live and work round estuaries.

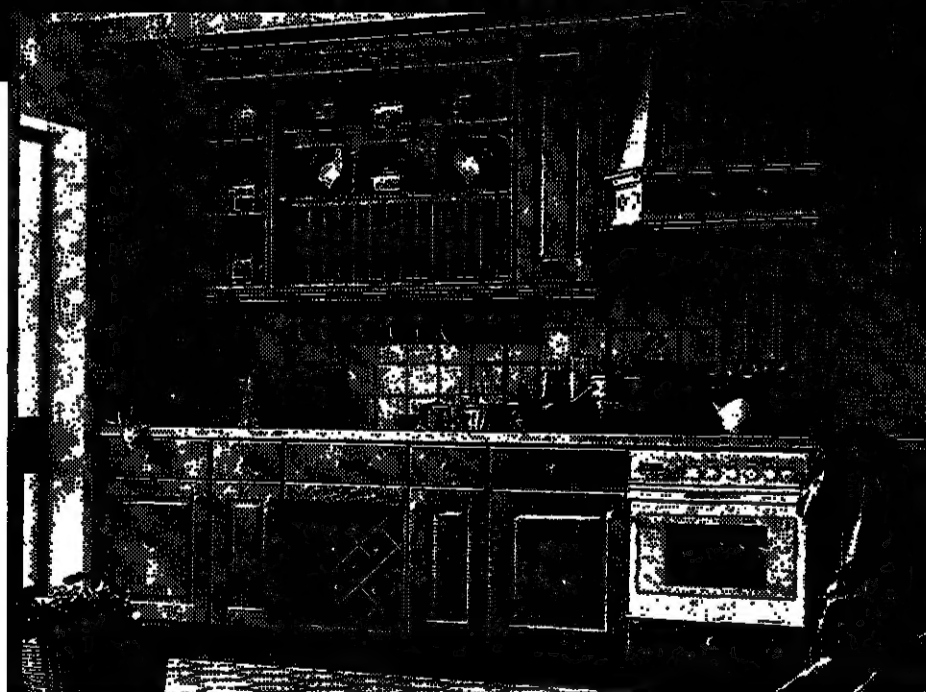
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Tokyo party baron bows out in shame

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, has joined the national chorus of disapproval against his disgraced patron

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

SHIN Kanemaru, the "king-maker" of Japanese politics and vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, threw his party into chaos and his prime minister into trouble yesterday when he announced his intention to resign from parliament to take responsibility for his involvement in a political corruption scandal.

A master of internal party politicking and the man responsible for selecting Japan's last four prime ministers, Mr Kanemaru, 78, bowed out yesterday. The party has long been riddled with a byzantine network of squabbling factions, but was plunged into turmoil over who should succeed Mr Kanemaru as the man with most influence.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, who owes his position largely to the patronage of the disgraced Mr Kanemaru, stayed out of sight while the storm was brewing. Yesterday, however, he broke his silence and, commenting on Mr Kanemaru's disclosed links with the *yakuza* (Japanese gangsters), said: "People

involved in politics should not have connections with those sorts of groups. I am taking this seriously and I apologise from the bottom of my heart to the general public."

Mr Kanemaru's reluctant resignation comes almost two months after his links with the boss of Tokyo's largest *yakuza* mob became public and after he admitted receiving a political donation worth 500 million yen (£2.4 million), which was about five times over the legal limit, from the trucking firm Sagawa Kyubin. Defiantly avoiding the embarrassment of a court appearance, he paid a fine of 200,000 yen two weeks ago to atone for his misdemeanour and returned to work as normal, apparently expecting public outrage at the incident to blow over.

However, pickets outside Mr Kanemaru's Tokyo residence indicated an unusually high level of public outrage for Japan, and younger Liberal Democrats had begun to call for his resignation. The combination finally forced Mr Kanemaru's hand.



Stepping out while the Communist party congress discusses moves to a market economy, couples practise dances in a Peking park yesterday

China keeps watchful eye on anti-Japanese protesters

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINESE police have circulated a warning that anti-Japanese organisations have been set up around the country and that they must be prevented from disrupting the visit of Emperor Akihito of Japan later this month.

"We hope you will watch this matter closely," the document tells officials. "If you discover any meetings, or demonstrations, or gatherings, we suggest each work unit should urgently try to persuade these people to desist, and at the same time tell the police."

The circular was issued last month to officials in Peking already nervous about the visit, the first by a Japanese emperor since the second world war. According to the document, organisations demanding compensation from Japan for war-time atrocities have been set up in more than ten of China's 30 provinces and municipalities. It claims that even government officials are involved in these activities, which it describes as illegal.

It cites one group in Peking called the Chinese non-governmental committee for seeking reparations from Japan, which has 55 members, including 17 government officials and 13 Communist party members. Several of the organisations had held press conferences, the document said, which had stirred up public opinion further.

Millions of Chinese suffered under the Japanese occupation and anti-Japanese feeling is still strong. The Chinese authorities are eager for good relations with their rich neighbour. China relinquished its right to ask for war reparations from Japan when the two countries normalised their relations in 1972.

An opinion poll from the Kyodo news service in Tokyo showed that nearly 90 per cent of Japanese surveyed were in favour of the visit of Emperor Akihito and his wife to China.

Hardline Muslims tap quake anger

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

AS ANGER arose yesterday among Egypt's thousands of new homeless, Islamic extremists intensified their drive to make political capital out of the government's inept earthquake relief effort.

Their moves came as two new tremors shook Cairo yesterday, threatening further building collapses two days after Egypt's worst earthquake killed 471 people and injured 4,000. The police closed off part of a main street in central Cairo after the second tremor when an old three-storey building, weakened by Monday's quake, tilted further over the pavement.

With many people still sleeping rough in parks and on pavements because of persistent fears of new tremors, Arab diplomats fear that the disaster, which cost at least \$1 billion, may prove the catalyst for renewed street unrest.

In the shadow of the Ibn Tulun mosque in the deprived Seyida Zainab slum area, ten dirt-stained tents provided by the fundamentalist Humanitarian Relief Agency were housing last night more than 100 people whose homes were destroyed. Most had only a few possessions.

"The state [and president] Mubarak has so far done nothing to help us. The only people who have looked after us are these Muslims," said Muhammad, a secondary school pupil squatting in one of the tents with seven members of his family. Beside his temporary refuge was a poster: "Islam is the solution."

Near by, hard-looking youths with beards mocked the snail's pace at which Cairo's bureaucracy has been dealing with the enormous human problems it now faces. Across the sewage-covered street on the steps of a run-down government office, members of homeless families were shouting and occasionally fighting in a desperate attempt to secure some alternative accommodation. Officials looked bewildered and incapable of coping.

"The government does nothing. It has not even provided us with licences to make these tents legal," one organiser said. He shouted down a plain-clothes policeman who intervened to try to put the government's side. "No, no, no," he screamed at him when the agent wrongly claimed that the officials had issued tent licences 48 hours after the earthquake struck, destroying nearly 600 buildings and rendering thousands of others uninhabitable.

Rangoon: Burma's military junta gave nine dissidents long jail terms for producing anti-government leaflets, and may strip more than 100 more opposition politicians of their parliamentary seats. (Reuters)

Lebanese strike Beirut: A strike to protest at the handling of the economy shut down schools and businesses in Lebanon. Similar strikes toppled the previous government in May. (Reuters)

'007' charges Manila: Fourteen members of a presidential anti-crime unit face murder charges over a shootout in which they "acted like James Bond". (Reuters)

Mao's car fetches £100,000

Peking: Lauren Hsiao Sun, a Chinese-American woman, paid £100,000 at China's first international auction yesterday for a black limousine said to have been used by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung (James Pringle writes).

Miss Sun, who would not reveal her hometown in the United States, said: "When I really want something I buy it, like when you see a dress you cannot resist in a boutique."

Rescue attempt Delhi: Indian air force helicopters were trying to rescue ten people trapped in a cable car over a 700ft ravine in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh. The cable car attendant jumped to his death after a cable snapped. (Reuters)

Burma jailings Rangoon: Burma's military junta gave nine dissidents long jail terms for producing anti-government leaflets, and may strip more than 100 more opposition politicians of their parliamentary seats. (Reuters)

Lebanese strike Beirut: A strike to protest at the handling of the economy shut down schools and businesses in Lebanon. Similar strikes toppled the previous government in May. (Reuters)

'007' charges Manila: Fourteen members of a presidential anti-crime unit face murder charges over a shootout in which they "acted like James Bond". (Reuters)

Nuclear detective tracks down Nobel

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GEORGES Charpak, the French physicist, yesterday won the Nobel Prize for Physics for a device that tracks fundamental particles, while the American chemist, Rudolph Marcus, was awarded the chemistry prize for studies of electron transfer reactions that underlie processes such as photosynthesis.

Dr Charpak, who works at Cern, the European particle physics laboratory in Geneva, suspected a hoax when he was rung to be told he had won the \$1.2 million (£700,000) prize. Once convinced, he said: "Great, then I can buy a new pair of shoes this afternoon."

The discovery for which he was given the award was the multi-wire proportional chamber, a device for detecting the thousands of particles produced in atom smashers like those at Cern. He invented the device in 1968 and linked it directly to computers. This enabled the data collection

speed to be increased by a factor of 1,000, and the path of the particles to be measured more precisely. Since then, this type of detector and its successors have been used in virtually every experiment in particle physics.

Professor Marcus, born in Canada but a naturalised American, holds the chemistry chair at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. His prize was for theoretical work on a simple chemical process that underlies many important phenomena — the transfer of an electron between two molecules. In such processes no chemical bonds are broken, but changes take place in the molecular structure, which his theories explain.

"The theory has proved useful in the interpretation of many chemical phenomena, even though it was initially controversial," the Swedish academy said in its citation.

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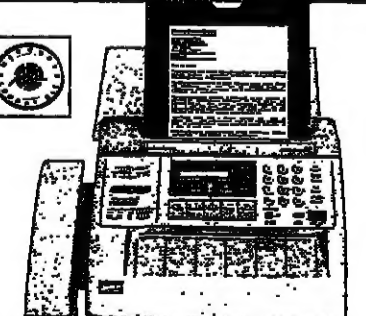
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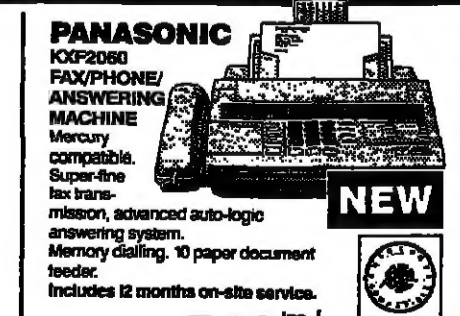
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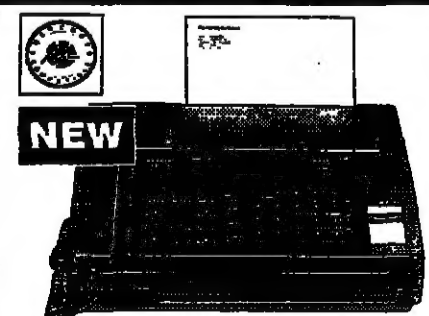
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Fingers out: Vice-President Dan Quayle, left, scoring a point during the televised debate with the other two vice-presidential candidates, James Stockdale, centre, Ross Perot's running mate, and Al Gore, who is on Bill Clinton's ticket

Quayle and Gore pour out vitriol

The vice-president was aggressive, his Democratic challenger wooden, and the outsider lost. Bush and Clinton debate tonight

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot yesterday prepared for this evening's presidential debate after a ferocious vice-presidential confrontation on Tuesday night that set an acid new tone for the campaign's final 19 days.

For 90 minutes Dan Quayle, the vice-president, and Al Gore, his Democratic challenger, slugged away like heavyweight boxers in what was labelled the most combative meeting in the 32-year

history of televised debates. There was no clear victor. The clear loser was James Stockdale, Mr Perot's running mate, whose painful performance could halt the Texan's resurgence.

"Who am I? Why am I here?" were the opening words of the 68-year-old soldier-scholar, plucked from his Greek philosophy. Those questions became increasingly pertinent. He lost his way in his opening statement. At one point he declined an invitation to speak. At another he confessed: "I'm out of ammunition."

Admiral Stockdale compared his position at the debate to being "an observer at a ping-pong game". The unavoidable question was how Mr Perot's presidential bid could be taken seriously when his running mate was so obviously out of his depth.

Two instant polls showed Mr Gore beat Mr Quayle by 50 points to 32 and 38 to 35, but the finger-jabbing exchange of charge and counter-charge, which continued with undiminished vehemence yesterday, probably swung few votes either way.

Mr Quayle's aggressive performance surpassed expectations. He banished memories of his wretched 1988 debate with Lloyd Bentsen. Did his hopes of winning the Republicans' 1996 presidential nomination no harm, and showed up Mr Bush's listless performance last Sunday by driving home the most blunt and focused message of the Republican campaign to date.

Mr Quayle made no attempt to sell a positive Republican platform. His theme throughout was that America

could neither trust nor afford Bill Clinton. He said Mr Clinton's "tax-and-spend" policies would make a poor economy "much, much worse", but his constant refrain was that Mr Clinton "has trouble telling the truth". Even the final words of his closing statement, instead of setting out a future vision, were: "Do you trust Bill Clinton to be your president?"

The Clinton camp said Mr Quayle was "shrill, out-of-control". The charge against Mr Gore was that he was packaged and wooden. He remained cool, but conceded nothing and hammered away at his central theme that Republican "trickle-down" economics had failed.

Mr Quayle's aggression lifted Republican morale as the Bush camp was hit by more trouble. It was accused of using US embassies to dig up dirt on Mr Clinton's years at Oxford, a charge it denied.

The Justice Department opened a preliminary criminal inquiry into whether William Sessions, the FBI director, had sought to evade paying taxes and made personal use of FBI telephones, cars and planes. Judge Sessions insists that he is innocent, but the enquiry could embarrass an administration that boasts it is tough on crime.

Mr Bush appeared to admit that he did know after all about the Iran-Contra arms-for-hostages deal. "Yes, I've said so all along," he told an interviewer. The White House later insisted he had misheard the question, but Mr Gore claimed that Mr Bush had "completely reversed himself".

Dairy state puts brake on Clinton juggernaut

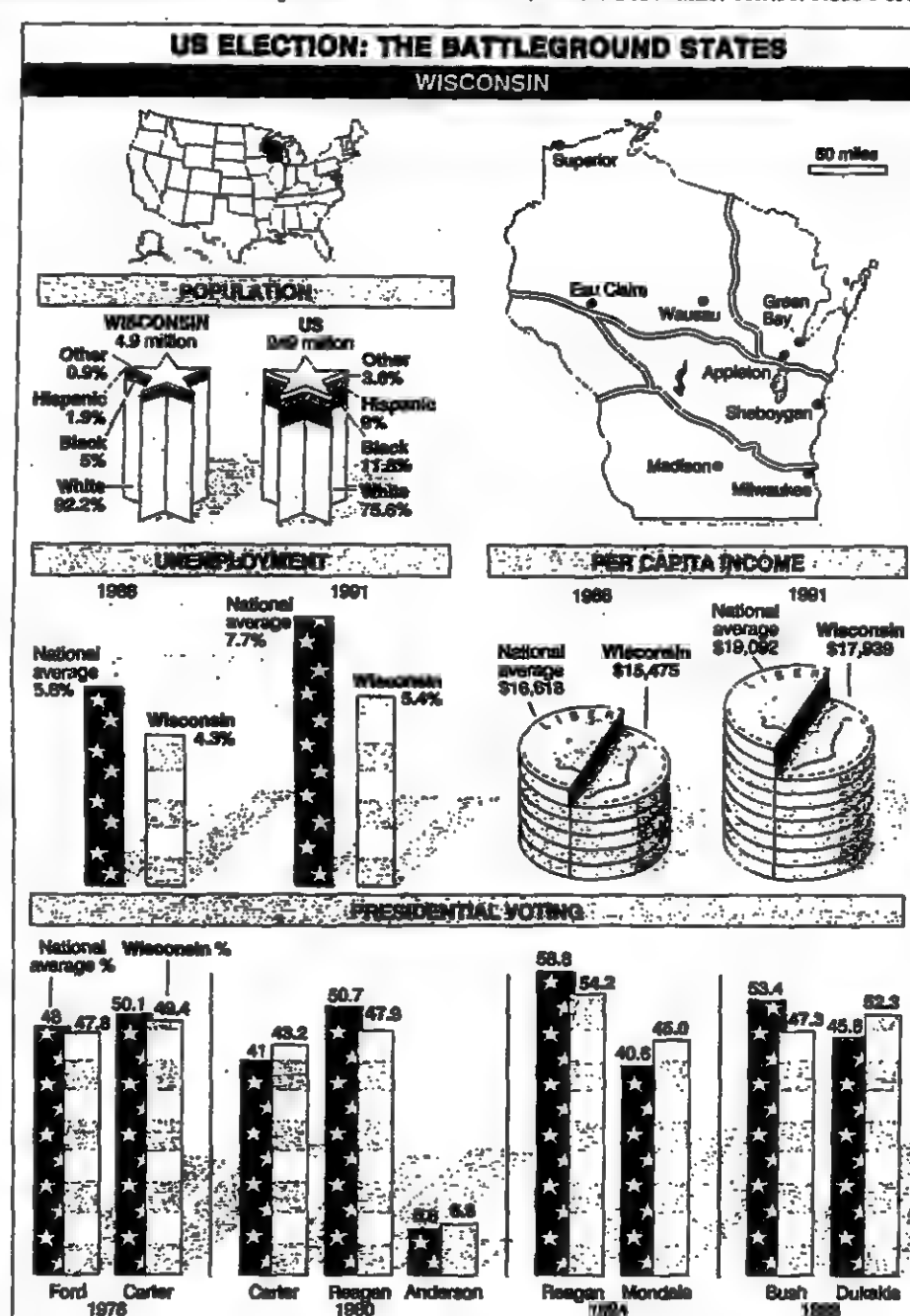
FROM ANTHONY HOWARD IN MADISON, WISCONSIN

OF THE ten states that Michael Dukakis won at the last election, Wisconsin was probably the greatest surprise. Ronald Reagan had secured it by 200,000 votes in 1984 and its defection from the Republican column was an early, ominous sign for President Bush who, four years later, looks like losing badly across the whole of the Midwest.

In state politics, though, times have been rough lately for the local Democrat party. At an old-fashioned "labour unity dinner" last weekend, hosted by the United Auto Workers, Jeff Neubauer, the state party chairman, reminded his audience that the Democrats in nearby states such as Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan were, according to the polls, doing much better than they were in Wisconsin.

If the Clinton juggernaut is not rolling as remorselessly across "America's dairyland" as it appears to be doing elsewhere, it is, however, for understandable historical reasons. Wisconsin has always been a slightly maverick state with an indigenous, ideological favour to its politics. The home of Robert La Follette, who founded the Progressive party, it has never felt entirely at ease in the mainstream of American politics. With a large number of German descendants among its inhabitants, it was isolationist in two world wars and then in the 50s became identified with the red-baiting Joe McCarthy, whom it twice sent to the Senate with huge majorities.

But since then Wisconsin has reverted to its earlier liberal inclination. Throughout the Vietnam years it provided a focus for the anti-war movement and it is now a pioneer on all environmental issues. In this year's "open primary" (in which anyone can vote regardless of party registration) it came within 3



per cent of choosing Jerry Brown of California in preference to Bill Clinton. Wisconsin Democrats are not natural Clinton people any more than they were instinctive Kennedy supporters in 1960.

Besides, the local Democrats have another prize in their sights apart from the White House. From the early 60s to the end of the 70s Wisconsin sent two Democratic senators to Washington. It lost one seat in the Reagan victory of 1980 and this year it is determined to regain it. Its candidate is a 39-year-old

liberal state legislator called Russ Feingold. Although his opponent is a two-term Republican incumbent, polls are predicting that he will run ahead of Mr Clinton and may win 60 per cent of the vote. "I recognise," Mr Feingold says, "that I have had a lot of luck." And so he has. Not the least part of his good fortune is that the state's greatest vote-winner, Tommy Thompson, the Republican governor, is not standing for re-election.

It is Mr Thompson who is said to have persuaded President Bush not to give up on

the state, despite his defeat here in 1988. Mr Bush has been to Wisconsin four times, although he has seldom ventured beyond rock-ribbed Republican areas.

The Democrats, by contrast, are deliberately taking the war into the enemy camp. They are hoping to convert a five-to-four adverse balance in the state's congressional delegation into a six-to-three preponderance in their favour. But there is a feeling that they may not even regain the second congressional district, which they lost in 1990.

New York lawyers get between the sheets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE debate over "date rape" in America and increasing confusion over what constitutes consensual sex have prompted a male support group in New York to issue what may be the most unromantic chat-up line ever invented — a "consensual sex contract" which, it says, should be signed by both partners before having sex in order to avoid subsequent accusations of rape.

"We feel that there has been a real growth in the incidence of false rape charges," says Mel Felt, director of the National Centre for Men, "and this contract is a way of protecting men against unfounded accusations."

The contract was drafted by a team of New York lawyers and is currently being distributed on university campuses and to various men's groups around the country, accompanied by a leaflet describing false rape accusations as "the most pressing danger a man faces from heterosexual intercourse in the 90s".

The contract states: "Neither of us may claim to be the victim of sexual harassment or assault or rape as a result of the acts which are the subject of this agreement" and concludes "we understand that this contract may be terminated at any time by either one of us except during the sexual activity contemplated by this agreement."

The contract has caused widespread anger among women's groups and represents the latest exchange in an increasingly bitter battle between the sexes in America. "At a time when we're all trying to work out the rules for sexual conduct, issuing a so-called contract for sex is just insulting," said a spokeswoman for the National Organisation for Women. "No means no. You don't need a piece of paper."

Perot's admiral is all at sea

BY ANTHONY HOWARD

IT WAS a real piece of political theatre. James Stockdale, Ross Perot's stand-in vice-presidential candidate, was endearing but embarrassing. Dan Quayle, the vice-president, was cocky but counter-productive and Al Gore, fighting from the Clinton corner, was masterly and merciless.

The one vice-presidential confrontation may have revived the spirits of the Republicans but it hardly enhanced their prospects. It returned the Perot electoral effort to being no more than a frolic on the margin and it left the Democrat ticket still in charge of the electoral agenda.

Mr Quayle had plainly been sent out with instructions to browbeat the chief Democrat standard-bearer, and he did his best to do so. "Bill Clinton," he kept saying, "has trouble in telling the truth", and his strategy was to try to make "character and trust" the theme of the debate.

If he failed, it was because Mr Gore loathly refused to respond. He concentrated on policy issues, returning time and again to the administration's economic record. He dominated the discussion on most of the substantive topics, and the frequency with which he scored was reflected in the regularity with which Mr Quayle greeted his assaults with a nervous laugh.

Mr Gore effectively destroyed his opponent on both abortion and family leave, taunting him with demands to repudiate his party's official position. When Mr Quayle tried the same tactic, notably on Mr Clinton's ambivalent attitude towards the Gulf war, he could never quite muster the knockout punch. Only on the question of school choice did he briefly appear to have Mr Gore on the ropes.

However, what the viewers were trying to decide was which of the two men they could more easily envisage standing a heart's beat from the White House. Unfairly or not, the nation's verdict is already in on Mr Quayle. He is generally regarded as not being up to the job of vice-president, still less of occupying the presidency.

Initially, the Republicans had clearly hoped that Mr Stockdale, an academic, would change the focus of the debate. But the admiral proved to be wholly at sea. Edging constantly with his glasses and even confessing that he had not heard a question, he played only a peripheral part.

The entire occasion became what the Republicans had most dreaded. It was, in effect, a duel between two men — one who has consistently been seen as a bonus to the Democrat ticket and the other who has rarely escaped being the butt of mockery. Mr Quayle deserves credit for turning in the spunky performance he did, but the impression still lingered of a lad having been sent on a man's errand.

Dirt-diggers' trail runs cold amid the dreaming spires

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE obsessive search for the truth about the young Bill Clinton's years in England now stretches from the cloisters of Oxford to the corridors of power in Washington, it emerged yesterday.

As American embassy officials admitted that the US State Department had ordered an "extremely thorough" investigation of the Arkansas governor's files, Oxford dons braced themselves for a fresh round of muck-raking. The trail now leads inexorably to the dreaming spires, scene of Mr Clinton's allegedly unpatriotic activities and, according to President Bush, the root of his ideological contamination.

Mr Bush's relentless attack on the character and judg-

ment of the Democrats' presidential candidate has focused on his role in the anti-war movement, which included demonstrations in London, when he was a Rhodes Scholar at the university in 1968 and 1969. Mr Clinton, who failed to complete a BPhil course in politics at University College, has denied that he tried to renounce his American citizenship to avoid the draft during the Vietnam war, accusing his opponent of McCarthyite tactics.

Oxford dons, already besieged by enquiries from around the world, do not relish the prospect of an alumnus in the White House launching a thousand newspaper profiles. Foragers for gossip about Mr Clinton's years as a radical and college rugby player must therefore struggle against a centuries-

■ The discreet dons of Oxford are braced for the flood of enquiries that is bound to follow if Bill Clinton manages to secure the glittering prize of the White House

old code of Oxonian omerté. The university declined yesterday to comment on Mr Clinton's youthful exploits as one of 32 Rhodes Scholars in his year. "There have been meetings at very high levels about this," a spokeswoman said. "Given the sort of people that are interested in Mr Clinton and their tendency to add colour to the story, we feel that we should keep out of it." No request for information had yet been received from American officials, she added.

The governor was known as a quiet, affable student who

enjoyed rugby, reading and friendship with the college porters at Oxford. The college has, however, also drawn a discreet veil over its association with the candidate, issuing only a short biographical note. "We've had every-one ringing up, even the *National Enquirer*," one don said yesterday, breaking off from a tutorial. "There's not very much to say. He was a very nice bloke."

Rhodes House said that its records on Mr Clinton were safely stored in a basement, along with 5,000 other confidential dossiers on his fellow

Rhodes Scholars. Oxford has central files on the academic performance of all its students since 1890, and partial records on individuals stretching back to 1500. The university proctors' records on disciplinary offences are also kept indefinitely, although individual files are occasionally destroyed.

The suspicion that Mr Clinton has something to hide has been encouraged by rumours that his university file had already gone missing. However, Philip Moss, head clerk at the university student record office, said that the personal file was still on his card index and it had not been tampered with. "It was there yesterday when my secretary was having a look at it," he said. "We get quite a lot of requests about Mr Clinton but he didn't do a lot

here." He added that the only confidential item in most files is the student's date of birth. Oxford's distaste for glassnost may have set American liberals chattering about skeletons in cupboards, but undergraduates are more sanguine about the secrets in the vaults. Vicki Howe, president of the students' union, said personal files were unlikely to yield sensational disclosures. "I think it would be very difficult for the university to find out very much about the students."

In Mr Clinton's case, there may be little to conceal. *Cherwell*, the weekly university newspaper, has just carried out a painstaking trawl of its back issues in search of Clinton's radical firebrand making his mark. Alas, the man from Hope, Arkansas, was not mentioned once.

Rifkind to set 12-month limit on UK mission in Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the defence secretary, is due to announce today the timetable for the deployment of troops in Bosnia and, according to Foreign Office sources, he will set a time limit of 12 months for Britain's military mission in the country.

The agenda comes after Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said on Tuesday that British troops may be called on increasingly to join peacekeeping operations around the world, raising new doubts about the balance between heavy armoured and lightly armed forces created under the government's *Options for Change* defence strategy.

Under *Options*, the army is to reduce from 55 to 39 infantry battalions and from 14 to 11 armoured and armoured reconnaissance regiments by 1995. Peacekeeping is synonymous with lightly armed infantry, well supported by communications, logistics

■ Douglas Hurd says that the forces may have to take on a much greater peacekeeping role. But the defence ministry seems not to be addressing that possibility seriously

and engineering. Mr Hurd, however, was not advocating a total rewrite of the *Options* structure. Although armoured brigades are irrelevant for peacekeeping, the defence of Britain and Nato commitments, which do require an effective armoured capability, will still have a higher priority.

However, in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute, he underlined his view that peacekeeping is going to become a regular occurrence for the army. The pledge to send about 2,000 troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina, is not seen at the Foreign Office as an exceptional commitment. As one official put it: "This is going to be the bread and butter of armed forces life."

The defence ministry insists

that nothing has happened since the announcement of the armed forces cuts in July 1990 to justify a rethink of *Options for Change*, even if the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia were to be followed by another in Moldova, Kosovo or Nagorno-Karabakh. Officials say the present manpower overstretch is unavoidable because so many infantry battalions are either being amalgamated or preparing for withdrawal from Germany.

However, the importance of peacekeeping as a way of establishing and maintaining security in the wider Europe and the increasing priority it will have to be given in military planning appears not to have been addressed seriously at the defence ministry. Staff colleges have not

changed their syllabuses to reflect the increasing trend and there is no special focus on training for peacekeeping missions.

Bosnia's rebel Serbs, meanwhile, have backed off from a confrontation with the United Nations by agreeing to allow their air force to be removed from the country, diplomats said. After a blunt warning from Lord Owen, the international mediator, that the UN was ready to enforce its no-fly zone over Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic, the insurgent leader, agreed to fly all Serb combat aircraft to the rump Yugoslavia.

The agreement, also involving Milan Panic, prime minister of the rump state, was described as the result of a unilateral offer on the part of the rebel leader. "I wanted to contribute to peace and a cessation of hostilities," Dr Karadzic said. "I wanted to have no more mix-up over whether we fly or not."

Diplomats said, however, that Dr Karadzic had been put under heavy pressure to comply with Friday's security council resolution 781 and to avoid direct UN enforcement that could have included the bombing of the rebels' airfields. Senior UN officials in New York said that there had been confirmed breaches of the resolution since its adoption on Friday, including some sorties on Saturday.

Lord Owen underwent minor back surgery in Geneva yesterday, sources at the Yugoslav peace conference conference said. The operation was expected to keep him from the conference for about two days. □ Thousands at risk: John Major has said in a letter to his EC partners that hundreds of thousands of people could die in former Yugoslavia this winter and that tomorrow's EC summit must tackle the issue.

He said: "At Birmingham, we must show the determination of the Community to respond. The first priority should be to ensure that relief gets through quickly and safely." (Reuters)



Ship shape: orange marine-patterned cottons, navy-striped T-shirt and light brown linen jacket featured in Anne-Marie Beretta's spring-summer ready-to-wear collection in Paris. In Yohji Yamamoto's collection, models were swathed in fabric that

sometimes constrained their arms like straitjackets. Most of the garments were black, but a few were in red, chocolate or amber. The Japanese designer added a brighter note with beaded Thai head-dresses and glossy saris. (Reuters)

'Ripper' convicted of 52 murders

FROM OLEG SECHERDROV
IN MOSCOW-ON-DOON

A MAN dubbed the "Rostov Ripper" after an orgy of killings in which he ate the sexual organs of his victims was found guilty of 52 murders by a court in southern Russia yesterday.

Andrei Chikatilo, 57, head shaven and eyes bulging, sat in a metal cage in the court as the judge, Leonid Akubzhanov, ruled that he was sane. Chikatilo raped and killed boys, girls and young women and escaped police detection since 1978. He seems likely to face the death penalty when sentenced, probably today.

Chikatilo killed 21 boys aged between eight and 16 years, 14 girls aged between nine and 17, and 17 women. He buried most in woodland. "He tortured his victims by biting out their tongues, tearing away their sexual organs and cutting their bellies open," the judge said.

The emotional scenes that marked the trial proceedings earlier in the year were repeated in the courtroom. "I can't breathe the same air as him! I can't live on the same earth with him!" a woman in a black mourning dress screamed from the public gallery.

The former teacher, Communist party member and "perfect husband-terminator" terminated southern Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. He was arrested in 1990 after he made advances to a boy. Police had arrested three men on suspicion of committing some of the crimes. One committed suicide, another tried to kill himself and the third was executed for the first of Chikatilo's murders. (Reuters)

Gorbachev cancels Italy trip

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, yesterday backed down from further confrontation with the Russian constitutional court, cancelling a trip to Italy with only hours to spare rather than face a showdown with security guards who had orders to stop him at the airport. His decision to abandon the visit came despite assurances yesterday morning of support for the venture from the Italian embassy in Moscow.

President Yeltsin relented under international pressure, notably from Italy and Germany, saying that Mr Gorbachev would be allowed to leave Moscow to attend the funeral of the former German chancellor, Willy Brandt, in Berlin at the weekend "for humanitarian reasons". But

the government said yesterday that this did not extend to a private trip to Italy.

Mr Gorbachev was due to meet the Pope and President Scalfaro and receive honorary degrees during the visit. He told Italian radio yesterday: "I apologise to all my Italian friends. It is not my fault. My passport only allows me to go to Germany." He is still expected to travel to Berlin for Herr Brandt's funeral.

Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian prime minister, yesterday called on Giuliano Amato, his successor, to "react in a very firm manner" and said European Community foreign ministers should make "an extremely firm protest".

The development represents a further spat in relations between Mr Gorbachev and

the Yeltsin administration. The Russian president is determined to show he controls his rival's fate.

□ Massacre claim: Mr Yeltsin yesterday aimed a further blow at Mr Gorbachev, releasing secret documents linking him to the cover-up of the Soviet massacre of Polish officers in Russia during the second world war. He gave President Walesa of Poland a copy of the decision by the Soviet Communist party politburo, signed by Stalin, to execute 14,700 Polish officers who were interned in the Soviet Union and 11,000 other Poles. The Soviet Union officially blamed the massacre on the Nazis for 50 years and Mr Gorbachev did not admit Soviet responsibility until April 1990. (Reuters)

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Delors heading for collision with UK over power of veto

FROM TOM WALKER
IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, steered his Brussels bureaucracy yesterday on to a collision course with the British presidency of the European Community at the Birmingham summit, saying that subsidiarity could not be used as an automatic escape clause from EC laws.

He gave a warning that the summit negotiations could be chaotic in the absence of a precise definition of the main subject on the agenda—subsidiarity, and the piling of powers from Brussels.

M Delors told an emergency session of the European parliament in Strasbourg that the British presidency's idea of subsidiarity was "his and his alone" and that he would open up arms to it, he said. In a speech full of unscripted, pithy remarks, M Delors soon lost his jocularly, how-

The president of the EC is making clear he will battle in Birmingham to retain full powers for Brussels

er, and tore apart any British notion that subsidiarity could give member states the right of automatic veto over Commission policies. He also rejected an appeal to the parliament by Tristram Garel-Jones, a Foreign Office junior minister, for the European Community to sit back for a few years and reflect on its progress to date.

Mr Garel-Jones urged a minimalist interpretation of the Maastricht treaty, with subsidiarity giving nations the right to kill off Commission proposals before they are even discussed at government level. But M Delors said that such a right of veto over everything Brussels did "would paralyse the Community". Members of the parliament gave M Delors a rousing ovation, while muted clapping was Mr Garel-

Jones's reward. "Are we not going too fast?" asked M Delors rhetorically of the British call for a cooling-off period. "Should we not have waited for three or four years? The response would have been 'yes' if the world had not changed so quickly. Without the treaty of European union what would we have made of German unification, of the liberalisation of the East, of economic and monetary difficulties? We did not have the choice."

Twisting the knife into the British presidency, M Delors blamed "Euro-madness" largely on member states, which he accused of spoiling and altering Commission legislation. If anyone was meddling, he said, it was the Council of Ministers, whose meetings he described as "a closed shop where national egotisms clash". The speech indicated that at Birmingham, M Delors, while admitting the need for more "transparency" in the European Community law-making process, would fight for the Commission to retain its powers.

Mr Garel-Jones avoided trying to define subsidiarity, and said that the summit would have to address "openness and the protection of national identities". He spoke at length of the need to publicise the treaty and show it "in its true colours".

He said: "We are not seeking to build a new superstate in Europe but neither do we want a loose association of nation states that just bump into one another from time to time to discuss some sort of commercial transactions. We are building a closer union and, yes, an ever closer union of free nations."

He called for the Community to be "less bureaucratic, less centralised, more open and more human", and spoke of a "frenzy" of legislation in recent years that had "moved us ahead of public opinion and understanding".

London: At the Birmingham summit the heads of government will focus on three main issues: the ratification of the treaty, turbulence on the money markets and the dangers of hardship and starvation in former Yugoslavia this winter (Michael Binyon writes).

This evening foreign ministers discuss the worsening situation in former Yugoslavia over dinner in Birmingham, and Lord Owen, the EC negotiator, will brief them on his efforts to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Summit guide, page 14
Philip Howard, page 16



Delors offered prize to define subsidiarity

Mitterrand sheds treaty illusions

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WITH the jeers of furious farmers still ringing in his ears, a chastened President Mitterrand will be happy if the European leaders can get through the Birmingham summit with enough harmony to inject a little hope into the flagging fortunes of the Maastricht treaty.

As politically and physically frail as the accord, M Mitterrand can have few illusions that the grand scheme of rapid union will survive in its original form and, after his narrow squeak in the referendum, France is in a poor position to lecture recalcitrant partners.

M Mitterrand and his team have spent recent days shoring up their partnership with Germany and weathering the fallout from French obstruction of a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) pact between Europe and America. Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, told the cabinet yesterday that France's stance at the trade talks would not poison the atmosphere in Birmingham. He depicted the collapse of talks on agricultural exports on Monday as a victory by Europe over an attempt by the Americans "to drive a wedge into the Community".

France and Germany also assured Spain at a three-sided foreign ministers' meeting in Paris on Monday that they would not abandon their support for the poorer countries in their attempts to converge, or catch up with the richer ones.

As wary as they are of British and Danish doubts about Maastricht, the French are giving firm public support to John Major and avoiding any hint of a threat to leave the doubting and poorer members and take off with the Benelux group into a two-speed Europe.

French politicians and com-

mentators, however, have shown no such delicacy as once again they cast Britain as the trouble-making outsider. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president and leader of a conservative party which is expected to share power after parliamentary elections in March, said countries "hostile to union must not have the power to block it. They should have the chance of remaining outside until they decide to join the convoy."

The editor of *Le Figaro* said Britain's behaviour proved again the wisdom of President de Gaulle's remark at the foundation of the European Community: "Europe is France and Germany. The rest are just vegetables."

France and Germany are in close agreement over the kind of adjustments needed to give a dose of glasnost to the Community's workings without upsetting the Maastricht momentum towards federation. That means spelling out the meaning of subsidiarity, a task that is proving complex, and refusing any talk of revising the European monetary system.

All is not plain sailing between the two partners, however. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, had to come to the aid of France for the second time in a month this week when he assured Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, that he would not allow the other European leaders to gang up on M Mitterrand over his refusal to compromise on agricultural exports at the Gatt talks.

Yesterday, French farmers dumped thousands of tons of manure, rubbish and earth on the doorsteps of government prefects and ministers as a warning of much worse to come should their wishes on the pact be ignored.

Rise of far right threatens Bonn's leading role in EC

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN BONN

THANKS to the mighty mark and the Bundesbank, its true defender, Germany will appear in Birmingham as the economic strongman of contemporary Europe.

However, fears that this will lead to a crude form of German political hegemony are misplaced. For the probable course of German politics over the next few years means it is far more likely that Bonn will not be able to exercise any real leadership in Europe.

The chief reason lies in the rise of the German extreme right, not the neo-Nazi skinheads, but the "respectable" far right, of which the most important component is the Republican party. Its leaders are carefully distancing themselves from the skinheads and middle-class voters are increasingly accepting their discreet nationalism.

If, as is generally expected, the Republicans jump the 5 per cent hurdle and enter parliament in the 1994 elec-

The tradition of coalition politics is in danger from the growing "respectable" vote for the extreme right

tions, they could make the traditional working of West German coalition politics temporarily impossible. If neither the Christian Democrats (CDU) nor the Social Democrats (SPD)—even in an alliance—can gain a parliamentary majority, the only course will be either a minority government tolerated by the opposition or a "grand coalition" of the CDU and SPD.

The arrival of the Republicans in parliament is bound to cause howls of alarm from the rest of Europe, and indeed within Germany itself. These, however, would probably be misplaced. The Republicans strongly resemble Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front in France: they are foul, but they are not

a danger to European peace. German politicians are already taking the first tentative steps towards such a grand coalition. However, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, is determined to lead the CDU to victory at the next elections, and could certainly not remain as leader of a grand coalition. Wolfgang Schäuble, leader of the Christian Democrats, and Volker Rübe, the defence minister, are jockeying discreetly to succeed him.

In the view of Wilhelm Hankel, a banker writing for *Der Spiegel* magazine, "whoever, under whatever circumstances, lays a hand on the mark will be mercilessly voted out". According to the Maastricht schedule, the creation of a single currency is due at the end of the 1990s. It would almost certainly be a key issue in the German elections due in 1998. These elections may also decide whether the Republicans prove a temporary phenomenon or root themselves in the German parliamentary landscape, forcing its profound transformation.



Head for figures: Fernando Botaro, a Colombian sculptor, stands yesterday beside one of 30 of his works exhibited on the Champs Elysées in Paris. Other Botaro works are on display at the Grand Palais near by

Farmers protest against French export cuts

By CHARLES BREMNER

FRENCH farmers dumped thousands of tonnes of manure and earth outside government offices around the country and blocked roads yesterday, warning of worse to come if the Mitterrand administration yields to pressure from European Community

partners for cuts in food exports. The latest action by the farmers was also a sharp reminder to President Mitterrand two days before the Birmingham summit that any compromise over American demands in the Gatt trade talks will lead to violent insurrection. France tested its allies' patience earlier this week

when it obstructed an accord, supported by other EC members, which would have cleared the way to a new Gatt treaty on global trade. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, assured M Mitterrand that he understood his political predicament. After the farmers' rejection of Maastricht in the referendum and with the

threat of further upheaval, the government has almost no room for manoeuvre. Following up protests in the spring and early summer, farmers used hundreds of tractors and earth-moving equipment yesterday to cause havoc in town centres in the protest, organised by the FNSEA, the mainstream farmers' union.



The horses were taken into care. The owner was taken to court.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Aids case reprieve for Fabius

Paris: An opposition attempt to impeach and try Laurent Fabius, the former French prime minister, and two other Socialist former ministers for their part in a scandal over Aids-contaminated blood was rejected yesterday by the national assembly's bureau.

Four health officials are awaiting a verdict after being tried for negligence following the infection of hundreds of people. (Reuters)

Lawyer acts

Amsterdam: Terrence Ford, a US lawyer, said he plans to sue Boeing on behalf of families of victims of the Amsterdam air disaster when an El Al jumbo jet hit their flats. (Reuters)

Vote for Patten

Hong Kong: The legislative council backed a proposal by Chris Patten, the governor, for democratic reform, giving him a boost before he tackles a Peking leadership hostile to his blueprint. (Reuters)

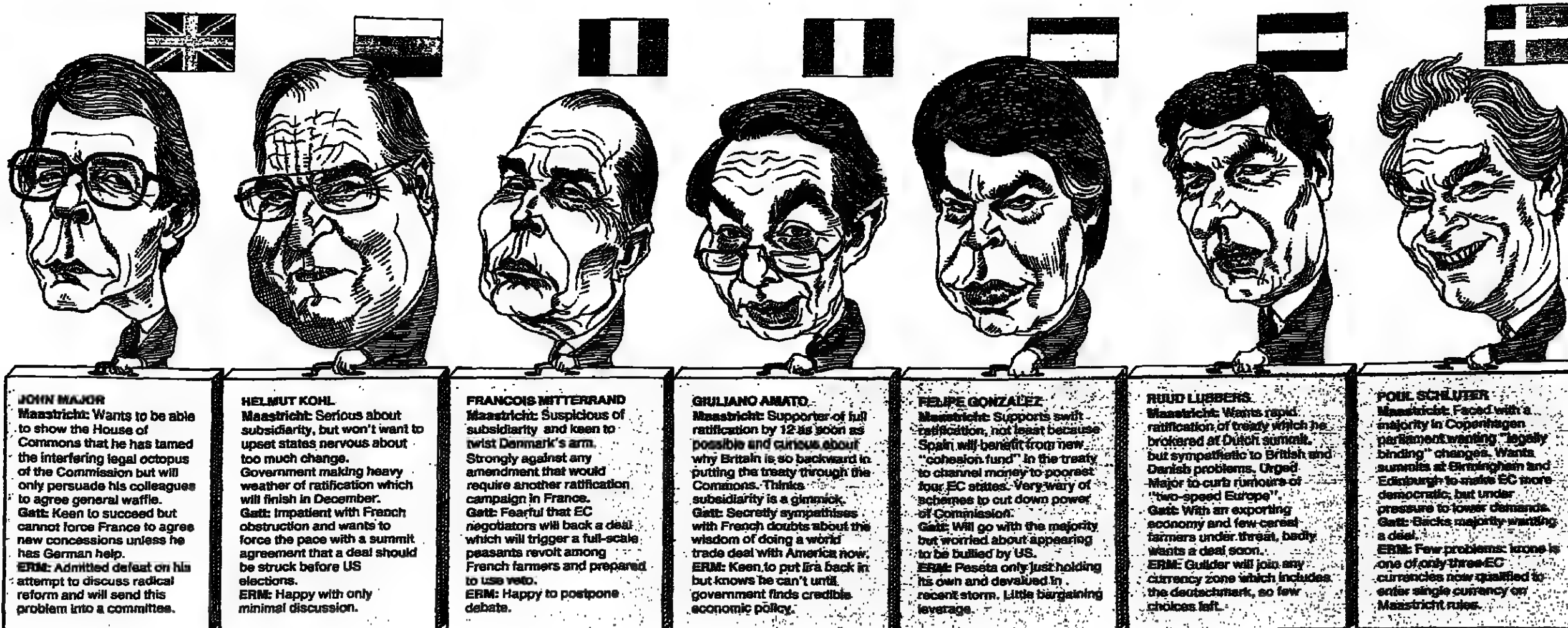
Amato gives in

Rome: Italian trade union leaders won concessions from Giuliano Amato, the Socialist prime minister, on his harsh 1993 budget package after their nationwide strike.

Art charges

Nice: French officials have charged a second man in connection with the theft from a Riviera villa of four paintings worth £20 million. (Reuters)

The Times guide to the Birmingham European Community Summit



Major's chance to be a European hero

When John Major and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany sit down for dinner in Birmingham this evening, their private talks may touch on the nightmare possibility that the Maastricht treaty may not come into force. But no such speculation will be on the summit agenda tomorrow.

The European Community's endless arguments over Maastricht are turning slightly surreal. Each time the EC's 12 governments meet, they solemnly reaffirm that each and every state will ratify an unchanged Maastricht treaty. Sometimes they even say that this should happen by the end of the year, although it has been clear for some months that Denmark will not hold a second referendum to reconsider its rejection of the treaty until well into next year. Meanwhile, governments rewrite the supposedly sacred text.

The German finance minister, Theo Waigel, stood up in the Bundestag last week and calmly announced that MPs would hold a decisive vote before the German mark was merged into a single European currency. The point was repeated by Chancellor Kohl's defence minister, Volker Ruhe, over the weekend. In one sense, neither man was saying anything remarkable: every Eurocrat, economist and minister knows that if Germany decides to delay monetary union, everyone else will have to wait. The mark will be the core of a single currency just as it is the anchor of the exchange rate mechanism.

But neither Herr Waigel nor Herr Ruhe made any reference to the fact that the Maastricht treaty leaves no room for any German discretion over monetary union. Opt outs tacked onto the treaty only apply to Britain and Denmark. As a jaundiced Danish Eurocrat re-

marked the next day: "What we negotiated, Germany just takes." This distinction is the bitter preoccupation of Danish politicians as they prepare not only for Birmingham but also for the more pivotal meeting in Edinburgh in early December. For Denmark will come under ever sharper pressure to fall back in line during this autumn. The ratification of the Maastricht treaty has released a torrent of grass-roots grumbles over European integration which the continent's politicians barely suspected existed. But the men who sit round the table tomorrow are stuck with the web of compromises they wove in Maastricht last December. Political prestige and survival are at stake. President Francois Mitterrand might have survived a "No" vote in the French Maastricht referendum but barely: Chancellor Kohl would be damaged by the dissolution of the treaty's certainty. The French government, the driving force since 1990 behind a more suffocating embrace of Germany, is well aware that a

German government might never again even make even a technical promise to abolish the mighty mark. Leaders comfort themselves that voters are rebelling for reasons which have nothing to do with Maastricht, and more to do with recessionary woes, boredom with worn-out governments and bewilderment at the nit-picking detail of EC law generated by the last EC treaty revision before Maastricht. But to make Maastricht happen discontent has to be contained in Britain and Germany and the

Danes have to be persuaded back into the fold. This week, the opposition majority in the Copenhagen parliament began talking about wanting "legally binding" changes to the treaty. If the Danes stick to such a demand at the Edinburgh summit, the rest of the Community faces three choices, none appetising. Least likely, the leaders could decide to renegotiate parts of the treaty, to open what one diplomat called "Pandora's can of worms". The result would be chaotic, divisive and might not command any more support than the present beleaguered document.

Secondly, the Community could split between a group of states wanting to integrate à la Maastricht and the laggards. The legal and political problems of achieving such an apparently logical solution are colossal. Lastly, and most likely, everyone will squeeze the Danes into dropping any idea of reopening the treaty.

Success or failure will depend on Mr Major. If Britain has ratified the treaty by next February, 11 governments can threaten Denmark with isolation and exclusion and mean it. If Britain has not ratified, those measures will ring hollow. For this reason, Mr Major will emerge from Birmingham in a surprisingly heroic light. There will be much talk of the personal rapport between "John and Helmut". Mitterrand will listen with equanimity, despite not believing in it, to Mr Major's lecture about the importance of a world trade deal.

The British government is not popular in EC capitals just now. Its ministers sound too agnostic about the treaty and are suspected of manipulating the powers of the Community presidency too much for their own ends. But to rescue Maastricht, Mr Major's fellow summiters need him to win in Birmingham.

Solemn statements of faith in the Maastricht treaty hide political machinations behind the scenes.

George Brock looks at the prime minister's role in tomorrow's summit

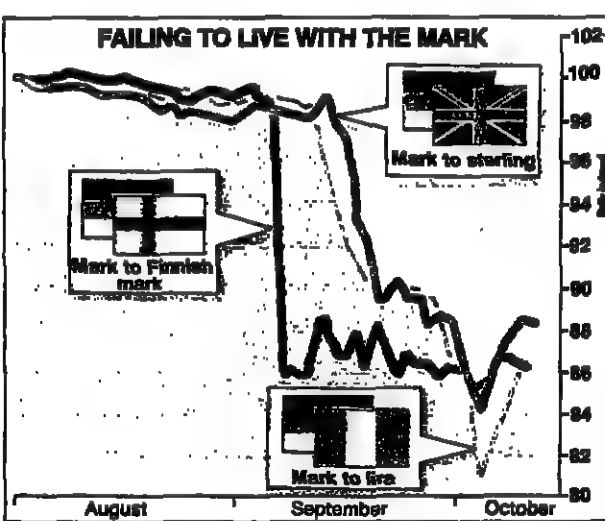
Countdown to chaos

CURRENCIES

The exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) was put in place in 1979 to provide a zone of currency stability in Europe. Although the Danish No vote to Maastricht in June produced the first unease in financial markets, the seeds of tension were planted in 1990 with German monetary union and the inflationary boom that followed.

Britain's entry to the ERM in October 1990 came when the German economy was on a divergent path from much of Europe, especially Britain, which was sliding into the longest recession since the war. While ERM membership allowed British inflation to be notched down steadily, tight German monetary policy barred the way to lower interest rates. The widening gap between falling American short-term interest rates and the high rates dictated by the Bundesbank provided a background tension by strengthening the mark. In July the Bundesbank upped the ante by raising its discount rate three quarters of a point to 8.75 per cent.

A sharp fall in the dollar on August 20 dragged the pound to a new low of DM2.8870. But central bank intervention to support the dollar only speeded up the dash into marks. Three days later, an opinion poll indicating a French No to Maastricht renewed pressure on the weaker ERM members. Norman Lamont sought to remove any "scintilla of doubt" that he would devalue sterling. France



again ruled out devaluation. To no avail. A £7.3 billion borrowing package to shore up sterling gave the pound a brief respite on September 3. But the following day, Italy had to raise interest rates to hold the lira. It soon became clear that the sheer volume of currency in the global, deregulated market could overwhelm any central bank defences.

Finland was the first to give. Though outside the ERM, the Finnish markka was pegged to the ecu. The Finns unpegged on September 8 and devalued by 13 per cent. The Swedish krona, also linked to the ecu, saw a series of hikes that pushed interest rates to 500 per cent. The focus on the pound and the lira intensified. As massive intervention was not working, Germany and Italy agreed on September 13 to a 7 per cent devaluation of the lira with a

cut in key German lending rates. But the pound plunged back to its ERM floor. Large-scale intervention and a belated two point rise in base rates failed on September 16 — "Black Wednesday" — to stem the tide. The pound and the lira were withdrawn "temporarily" and allowed to float. The peseta devalued by 5 per cent. This week the pound held above DM2.50. Its old ERM central rate was DM2.95.

But the defence action for the French franc after the narrow Yes vote to Maastricht on September 20, and the uncertain timing of Italian and British re-entry to the ERM, appears to have made it likely that monetary union will be a multi-tier affair, built around a Franco-German core, plus Belgium and the Netherlands, in the front rank.

COLIN NARBROUGH

Ministers tread path strewn with hurdles

ARTICLE 119

The Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states and can therefore, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved by the Community.

COMMONS TIMETABLE

- The cabinet decided two weeks ago to press on with the suspended committee stage of the ratification of Maastricht before a second Danish referendum.
- Tomorrow, British ministers hope for a statement of principle on subsidiarity which will pacify their critics.
- Mr Major's first hurdle will be a promised "paving" debate on Europe to be held later this month or early next. Government business managers have not yet decided whether to start the committee stage of the bill before the Edinburgh summit or in January. This strategy depends on the Edinburgh summit producing some substance to back up current general intentions on subsidiarity.

playing the patriotic card to justify ratification. The internal British argument has shifted to emphasising what the treaty prevents Brussels from doing — reversing the trend to centralisation and strengthening inter-governmental co-operation on foreign, defence and security policy.

The British presidency, however, has been rebuffed by most of its partners, who have insisted that they do not share Britain's doubts on Maastricht. They have opposed any attempt to modify the European monetary system (EMS), with Germany and France in particular insisting that Britain does not use the presidency to force changes other countries do not want.

The rebuff to British proposals has been made brutally clear to Mr Major and Douglas Hurd during their recent visits to EC capitals. Both have gradually retreated from their

earlier positions, and Britain is now concentrating instead on finding a formula on subsidiarity and other declarations that could help the Danes in holding a second referendum on Maastricht.

Mr Major's informal soundings among his partners are one reason why he has decided to nail his colours to the Maastricht mast, and confront his Euro-sceptic critics in the party. However, this has meant that the agenda for the Birmingham summit may now prove thinner than originally envisaged.

No renegotiation of the treaty will be proposed; Britain will not put forward any radical overhaul of the EMS; and any declarations on limiting the Commission's powers and spelling out the decentralised nature of the Community will not be formally added to

Maastricht as a legal protocol. Britain's priorities for its six-month tenure of the presidency — the successful completion of the Gatt talks, the preparation for the accession of new members and the final preparations for the single market — were blown off course last month. Ministers have already had to accept that the inevitable concentration on Maastricht means that much of this original agenda is unlikely to be agreed by the end of December.

Mr Major is, however, still eager to press ahead, assuming agreement can be reached on how Britain and Denmark can ratify the treaty. The foreign office is hopeful that at Edinburgh a negotiating mandate can be agreed for talks with Sweden, Austria and other countries leading to enlargement.

The Danes are looking at Birmingham for political

statements governing the interpretation of the treaty. These could include a much expanded definition of subsidiarity, a strong affirmation of continuing national control of foreign and defence policy and possible opt-outs for Denmark from specific areas of Maastricht.

Mr Major will emphasise to his partners that Denmark cannot be bullied or cajoled. The summit will look at the white paper the Schuler government published last week on possible solutions to overcome the referendum veto of Maastricht. Mr Major will insist that only the Danes can decide how they will represent the issue to voters. The atmosphere at the summit will be strained. Mr Major will have dinner with Helmut Kohl this evening, but all aspects of relations with Germany suffered in the argument over the Bundesbank's role in sterling's devaluation. Britain is also suspicious that despite frequent official denials, influential officials in Germany, France and Benelux may still be looking at the possibility of a two-speed Europe.

Continental Europe is critical of the British presidency for being too partisan in its own interests. Norman Lamont has lost the confidence of virtually all his EC colleagues, and even Mr Hurd, a well-trusted foreign minister, is beset by differing opinions over what to do in the former Yugoslavia. Mr Major's task will be to persuade his colleagues that Birmingham will be a reaffirmation of his European commitment, not an attempt to use the present uncertainty to slow down the integration of the Community.

MICHAEL BINYON and PETER RIDDELL

Second city flings open its doors with a shout of glee

Like an anxious family plumping up the cushions and straightening the antimacassars before some hoity-toity guests drop by for tea, Birmingham is in a frenzy of preparation, determined to make a good impression.

"Having this kind of event in Birmingham happens once in a hundred years," Roger Taylor, the chief executive of Birmingham City Council told a let's-not-cock-this-one-up meeting of hoteliers, restaurateurs, taxi drivers and shopkeepers this week. "Just think about the effect of a successful summit."

After years of pestering politicians to hold annual conferences in Birmingham or even to spend just a couple of hours there, Britain's second city can hardly believe its luck in being given a chance to parade its new conference halls and

hotels to Europe's biggest bigwigs, to shed an image stained by the Bullring and Crossroads motel, a chance to enter the history books as just maybe, the Treaty of Birmingham takes its place alongside the Treaty of Maastricht.

The trouble is that Birmingham's city fathers know there is already a link between the two cities: many Britons sneer at both only they have much longer than they have at Maastricht. Having a top orchestra under Simon Rattle or the Birmingham Royal Ballet has done little to dispel prejudices. Plagued by a reputation for buildings that are grimy or grim,

for loops of traffic and for a precarious accent that requires Brunettes to replace any vowel in a word with at least two other, randomly chosen vowels, Birmingham knows it is regarded as a national joke. Not a very amusing one at that. Even the French newspaper *Le Monde* took a crack at it a year ago, writing that: "The children of Birmingham steal cars like their fathers made them."

Handed an opportunity to reinvent itself, it is taking no chances. Those streets not being rebuilt are being scrubbed. In case bureaucrats get homesick, thousands of EC flags flap on new flagpoles. EC posters grace every shop window

THE HOSTS

and bus shelter. The plywood walls that screen construction projects from passers-by have been painted blue and sprayed with a stencil that leaves them imprinted with a ring of 12 golden stars. Every patch of earth has been planted with blue and yellow pansies. No brass has been left unbuffed.

Estate agents have been asked to take down "For Sale" signs, lest outsiders should think Birmingham is anything but booming. Taxi drivers have been taught politeness and enough French to be able to say "I've had that Jacques Delors in

the back of my cab" and "What is tipping illegal in your country then?"

The summit will be held in the new £180 million International Convention Centre (ICC), just four or five shopping malls away from the main railway station and built with the help of a £50 million EC grant. You can tell it has the latest in facilities because its vast internal concourse is planted with a forest of fully-grown trees, which keep you guessing about whether you have yet to enter the main building.

All other conference bookings for this week were cancelled, for security reasons, when Birmingham was told three weeks ago that it had

been plucked for stardom and tomorrow's summit. Everything is set. The hope is that thousands of European officials and journalists will go home realising that Birmingham is not half as bad as they thought it was. But considering just how bad that was, it could still leave Brum deep in the dumps.

The summit will cost about £3 million — for the policing, the hire of the convention centre, the catering and all the related expenses. The bill will be picked up by the British taxpayer: the two-day Edinburgh summit in December, at the end of the British presidency, is expected to cost twice as much.

Each delegation will comprise 19 people, including the head of state or government. They will pay for their own accommodation — though several leaders are expected to fly in on Friday morning and leave again that evening.

The summit will be conducted in the nine official languages of the Community. A team of 27 interpreters will be on hand for simultaneous translation of all the meetings; another team will be available to translate all documents. The cost will be borne by the EC Commission.

About 1,700 journalists are already accredited for the summit, and several hundred more are expected to attend.

JOE JOSEPH and MICHAEL BINYON

Who needs to join Cholesterol Countdown next week? Heather Kirby finds a path through the hype

Cholesterol: how low to go?

Instead of counting calories, we are now urged to count our level of cholesterol. Next Monday an eminent American heart specialist, Art Ulfendy, a famous football manager, Graeme Souness, and a former star of Channel 4's *Brookside*, John McArdle, will launch Cholesterol Countdown week on behalf of the Family Heart Association (FHA). Boots the Chemist is in the throes of an extensive advertising and public relations campaign to persuade us that knowing what our cholesterol level is vital. But is it?

Not according to Desmond Julian, the medical director of the British Heart Foundation, a charity which relies on voluntary contributions to fund research into heart disease. "I don't think a cholesterol count is a terribly useful thing to have and we don't approve of people testing themselves at home," he said. "I would not encourage women to count their cholesterol unless there is a strong family history of coronary heart disease (CHD), or if they have diabetes or high blood pressure requiring treatment."

If you have a close relative who has died prematurely from CHD, or you have high blood pressure, diabetes, if you smoke, or are seriously overweight, a knowledge of your cholesterol level could be useful. Men are more likely to die of heart disease than women but even for them, Professor Julian says, the significance of their cholesterol level depends enormously on those other factors.

Cholesterol, an important compound in the composition of cell membranes, hormone production by the ovaries, testes and adrenal glands as well as the digestion of dietary fat, is measured in units called millimoles per litre or mmol/l. Just below or just above 5.2 mmol/l is considered desirable although according to Professor Julian "a lot of extremely healthy people" have levels

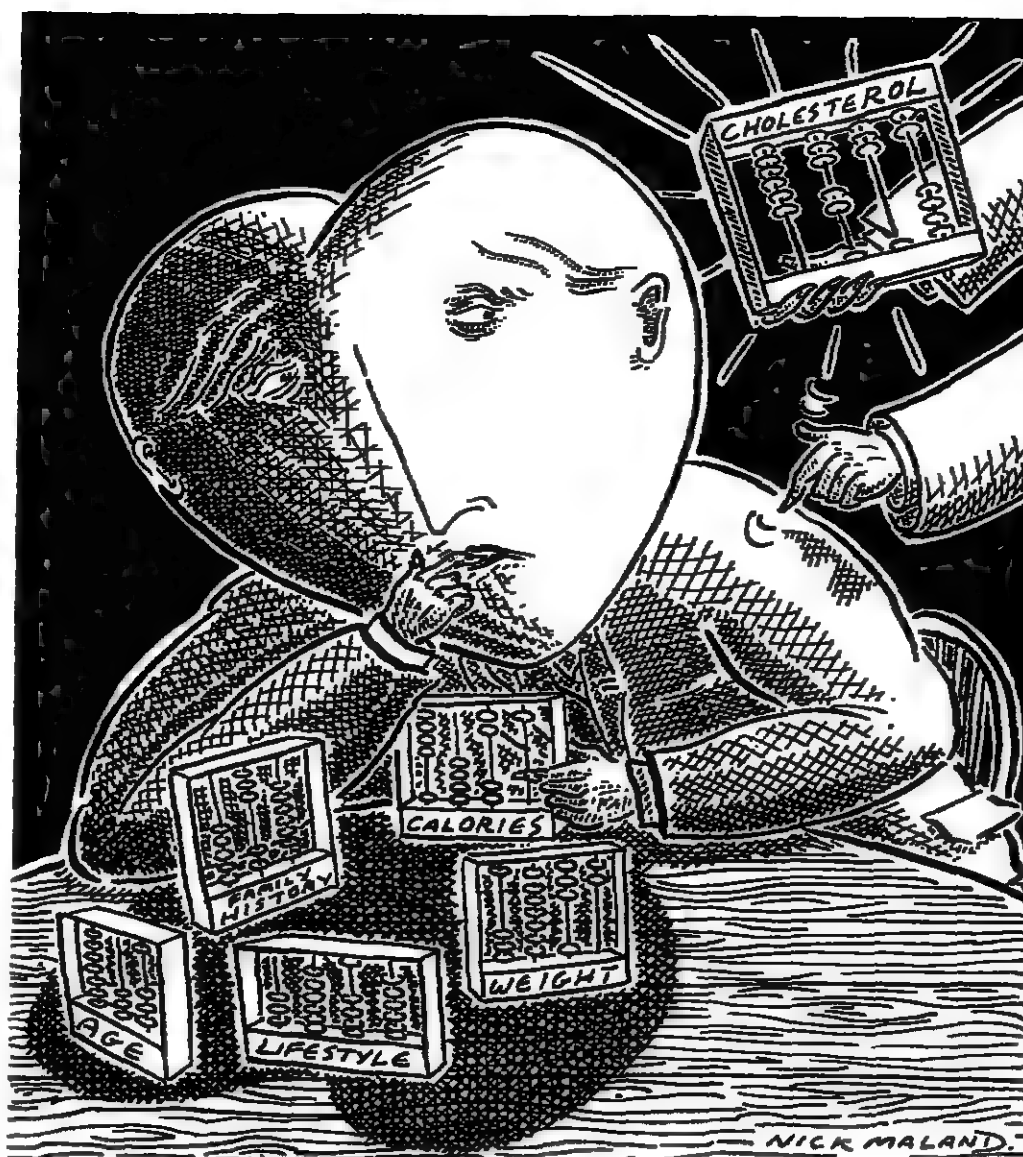
below and above this figure. The average middle-aged adult in this country has a count of 6. A cholesterol count over 7.5, if combined with some of the other factors which can also include lack of exercise or severe stress, is suspected of adding to the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD).

The Boots Home Cholesterol Test pack is fairly simple to use. A blood drop in a plastic counter left for 15 minutes dyes a measurement scale purple, but reading it is not easy. The purple indicator on the one I tried was clear up to a certain level then it petered out leaving me wondering which figure I should plump for: where

the definition was certain, the tip of where it trailed off, or somewhere in between? I chose the latter and it read 6.65. The blood test I had done at a local hospital was about the same, 6.5. The doctor translated this as in the low-risk category but the Boots kit warned that one other risk factor took me into the medium risk band and with more than one, into high risk.

Tom Sanders, a reader in nutrition at King's College London, and the nutritional director of the FHA, said, "If your blood cholesterol level is above 6.5-7.5 you have a three times higher risk of heart disease. If you smoke and have high blood pressure as well as high cholesterol, your risk of heart disease is eight to ten times higher."

The average levels of cholesterol do not compare with the one in 500 people who inherit familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH), an illness which is as common as insulin dependent diabetes. They would have a level of cholesterol between 10 and 15 mmol/l and although there are normally no symptoms connected with average high cholesterol levels, FH can be recognised in a number of ways: cholesterol is deposited in the tendons on the back of the hand or in the Achilles tendons or a



THE FACTS

- Being overweight does not necessarily indicate high cholesterol. Storing fat on hips need have no adverse effect on the heart but the risk is pushed up dramatically for those with fat stored in "pigeon" chests.
- Aspirin and oily fish do not reduce cholesterol but may decrease the likelihood of a blood clot in the coronary artery.
- Alcohol, not more than three glasses of wine a day, probably protects the heart.
- Saturated fats, which may contribute to a high cholesterol level, are ones which solidify at room temperature.
- Polyunsaturated fats (sunflower oil for example) are less harmful and mono-unsaturated fats (such as olive oil) are the least harmful. But "high in polyunsaturates" does not mean there is no saturated fat and an American report last week suggested that when polyunsaturated fats are converted into hard margarine they may raise cholesterol levels.
- The British Heart Foundation says that the following foods ought to be avoided if your cholesterol count is more than seven and you have other risk factors: butter, margarine, lard, cream, cheese, (except Edam, cottage cheese and fromage frais), lamb, pork, beef, meat pies, poultry skin, cakes, biscuits, desserts and confectionery, coffee except filter (tea is OK), coconut or palm oil.
- Foods which help to lower cholesterol by dispersing fat: oily fish such as herrings and sardines, all fruit and vegetables, soluble fibre such as peas, beans, lentils and oats.

white ring around the coloured part of the eye. It is this section of the public that the FHA, a charity funded by subscription, is targeting.

People suffering from FH usually need drugs to control their cholesterol levels, but they also have to cut fat from their diet. Most people can lower their cholesterol level by cutting out saturated fat (see fact list), although if their bodies do not respond some GPs will prescribe drugs. A 1 per cent reduction in blood cholesterol, Dr Sanders says, decreases the risk of CHD by 2 per cent. "For most middle-aged men, cholesterol would go down by 10, 15 or even 20 per cent if they lost a stone."

After the menopause women often have higher blood cholesterol levels than men, although hormone replacement therapy decreases it by replacing lost oestrogen. In the over sixties a higher than average level is associated with longevity according to

Dr Sanders, "probably because those who were most at risk (of CHD) have already died."

Dr Mary Seed, a lipidologist at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, says, "If you have a history of cardiovascular disease it would be important to know your cholesterol level but otherwise it would not be the first thing you would need to know. Exercise is likely to bring your cholesterol level because it almost certainly affects your lipid metabolism. We should eat more foods with Vitamin C and E in them because they prevent cholesterol being oxidised and damaging the arterial wall."

Saturated fats, it is believed, slow down the rate at which cholesterol is removed from the blood stream by the liver. Besides saturated fats, coffee is also now considered to raise blood cholesterol. This has nothing to do with caffeine but probably the fats which occur naturally in coffee

beans. The only exception to this is filter coffee because, it is believed, the white filter paper absorbs fat.

To confuse the picture further, there is evidence that low cholesterol levels are also associated with a higher risk of death. A massive compilation of available data carried out in the US suggests that, for both men and women, cholesterol levels of less than 1.6 mg per ml are associated with increased risks of dying from cancer (up 20 per cent), digestive system diseases (up 50 per cent), respiratory system disease (up 15 per cent) and, curiously, accidental death (up 50 per cent).

In men, trials of cholesterol-reducing drugs produce similar results, with reductions in heart deaths matched by increased deaths from other causes. These increases are statistically significant in the case of both cancer and death by injury (which includes accidents and suicide). The increase in accidental death is particularly striking, and lacks an

explanation, though low cholesterol may influence brain chemistry, reducing the levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin and altering mood.

Anthony Keech, a cardiologist at the clinical trials service unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, says, "I think a high cholesterol level is probably the most important single cause of our biggest killer in middle age but unfortunately after 20 years of trials none has been big enough to answer with certainty whether there are any important hazards to lowering cholesterol."

Many types of cancer and other chronic diseases are now known to be connected with lower cholesterol and there is evidence that people with low cholesterol are at greater risk of suicide. However, we don't know if most of these conditions are lowering cholesterol or if lower cholesterol is causing the conditions. What we need is some large trials to resolve the uncertainty.

No option but to operate

Sometimes a Caesarean section is essential

When a baby is lying across the womb during labour, its only exit is by Caesarean operation. A woman was ordered to have a Caesarean against her wishes this week, attempts to turn her baby externally having failed. Without intervention she risked womb rupture, leading to shock, internal bleeding and possible death. The infant, which in this case did not survive, would have died of oxygen starvation as the walls of the womb closed in.

Medically, the need for intervention was obvious. But doctors disagree about how often Caesareans need to be performed. Some British hospitals have rates below 10 per cent, while others approach 20 per cent.

St George's Hospital in London, where Geoffrey Chamberlain is a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, has a rate of 16 per cent. Many of these are problem referrals, but Professor Chamberlain does not deny the divergence of opinion. For instance, some doctors feel that all breech births (where the baby is buttocks rather than head down in the womb) should be performed by Caesarean. "The risks to the baby are greater if it is delivered vaginally," Professor Chamberlain says. "But you can make a case for a vaginal birth if the pelvis is a good size."

Some doctors prefer to intervene before things go wrong, and some take a wait-and-see policy. Some obstetricians would want to operate on a woman with high blood pressure because of the risk her baby may not be receiving enough placental oxygen. Caesareans can be elective, which means pre-planned by the woman's medical advisers, or result from emergencies either in pregnancy (for example, when the baby is not growing properly) or labour (such as when the placenta breaks away from the wall of the womb).

Most operations involve a curved transverse incision made near the bikini line. Because the muscle fibres and other tissues are thinner here, recovery is likely to be quicker. However, women with fibroids, or heavy internal scarring from previous abdominal operations may need a classical operation involving a longer, horizontal incision and a slower healing time.

The old medical dictum — "once a caesar, always a caesar" — no longer applies, provided the reason for the previous Caesarean is not expected to recur. Professor Chamberlain says.

ANN KENT

Laser makes the kindest cut

DR SHLOMA Wallfish is hardly likely to be remembered as a medical pioneer of the stature of, for instance, Sir Alexander Fleming, but a report from Israel this week has hailed him as the first doctor to use a laser to perform circumcision.

When a schoolboy recently arrived in Israel from Russia the authorities were shocked to find that his parents had defied biblical law and had rejected the ritual circumcision on the eighth day on the grounds that as the boy had a rare bleeding tendency the operation would be dangerous. Dr Wallfish was called upon to clear up this impasse — he used a laser which would cut without inducing bleeding.

Before the second world war circumcision was often a concealed status symbol in Britain, denoting that a boy had come from the affluent middle classes; this aspect of the procedure has remained, but to a lesser extent, in America, whereas sociologists have detected no class or economic differences between the circumcised and uncircumcised in Australia.

A generation ago, parents in Australia were almost equally divided in their approach: as a result boys from that era, now adults, provide an excellent group



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

in which to study the medical consequences of circumcision. Research in Australia has shown that there is no sexually transmitted disease which is not more readily spread to the uncircumcised. Similar results have come from Africa, where it has been shown that men from uncircumcised tribes catch HIV up to eight times more readily than the circumcised, and where the incidence of penile cancer in uncircumcised men can account for 10 per cent of all male cancers.

It has long been accepted that circumcision in early childhood saves the adult, of whatever race, from any risk of later developing penile cancer. But as in the Western world this cancer accounts only for 0.1 per cent of male cancers there must be factors in addition to lack of circumcision involved

in the high incidence among uncircumcised Africans.

Paediatricians quite rightly feel that it is undesirable to expect a baby who has just survived birth to have to withstand the not insignificant risk of haemorrhage or infection. To them the procedure seems pointless, unless the opening in the foreskin is too small to allow the free passage of urine, or, once toddlerhood is over, the foreskin will not retract.

Those who condemn circumcision on aesthetic grounds also show little regard for function. A few years ago a survey conducted among prostitutes, whose opinion on male sexual performance is unlikely to be influenced by emotion, showed that more than 90 per cent preferred intercourse with a circumcised man, both on the grounds of cleanliness and function.

Paediatricians sit in judgment on the future of the foreskin but as they only see the male when the sex organs have no sexual role their conclusions may be suspect. In these more promiscuous days, when society is haunted by HIV and herpes, perhaps the decision should be more influenced by doctors who look after the genitalia when they are fulfilling their adult purpose.

Dyspeptic's dilemma

THE knowledge that aluminium was involved in the pathological changes seen in the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease was disturbing for those who need antacid indigestion tablets, many of which contain aluminium.

Nor was any dyspeptic cheered by reports from America last year that there was indeed some slight, circumstantial evidence that prolonged use of antacid



was associated with Alzheimer's. More encouraging research by Dr Edgar Miller, the president of the British Psychological Society, has shown that over a two-year period, albeit a short term,

WINSTON Churchill was a great cannap, proud of his ability to seize a few hours sleep and wake as refreshed as if he had had a full eight hours. It is not necessary to be a great war leader to enjoy a siesta after a good meal; but the afternoon snoozer should not feel that the habit is necessarily a recipe for a long and healthy life.

For some years it has been known that the most dangerous time of the day for those with incipient coronary arterial disease is the hour or two in the morning after waking;

there is no difference in memory loss between antacid users and those with a more sound digestion.

For patients with severe, or recurrent, oesophagitis (heartburn) Losec omeprazole

Wake up to the danger

research now suggests that similar hazards, a rise in blood pressure, heart rate and an increase in the stickiness of the platelets, the small cells involved in clotting, also face people who wake from a quick kip during the day.

Pulse magazine reports that research by Dr David Mulcahy, of London's National Heart, Lung and Chest

Hospital, shows that waking from a post-prandial nap is accompanied by a surge in blood pressure and an increase in pulse rate.

Other recent research has indicated that although a daily aspirin may do more harm than good for those not at risk from a heart attack, it has a dramatic effect on the life expectancy of anybody who is. Dr Mulcahy's study suggests that, for most people, the aspirin should be taken at night so as to give maximum cover during the waking hour or two.

It's impossible to tell whose cholesterol level is higher.



This simple test will tell you yours.

You'd be forgiven for assuming that the slimmer, fitter-looking man on the right has a lower cholesterol level.

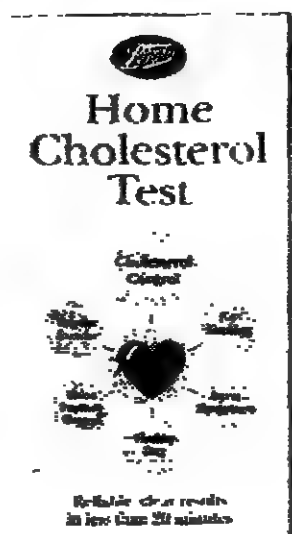
The fact is you can't tell by looking and the only way to know for sure is to have a simple blood test.

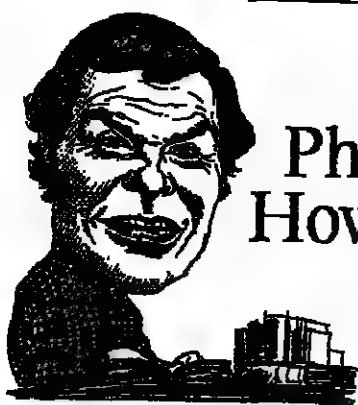
You can either make an appointment with your doctor. Or now you can do it yourself with the new Boots Home Cholesterol Test.

With the kit comes a 'Caring for your Heart' leaflet which puts the results of your Cholesterol test into context.

The instruction leaflet has a Freephone Helpline to give you more information if required.

It only takes 20 minutes, it's easy to use and importantly it's the most accurate home cholesterol test you can buy.





Philip Howard

Defining the S-word is driving some people bananas, but I can easily undercut M Delors' offer

I claim my £140,000. Yesterday Jacques Delors offered this tidy sum in euros as a prize for whoever could define on a single piece of paper the bogey word of subsidiarity, which has got the European Commission and the rest of us into such a mess of moles. I am not sure about the job in Brussels, which he also offers as part of the prize for the winner. Wonderful galleries, of course, from Rubens to Magritte, delicious food in piggish quantities; and the Ardennes on your doorstep. It even has a replica of our own dear Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens. But the Paris of the Belgians has been destroyed by the motor car and Eurocrats, and it lacks the fire and brimstone and panache of Paris. As Auden put it: "O beautiful City of Brussels, with your parks and statues and boites, where they really know how to cook mussels . . .", before lapsing into unprintability. So, no thanks, all the same, for the job, M. President. But here goes for the doh.

That 12-letter S-word is still driving us all bananas. As we come up to the Birmingham summit, "I is bust, dear diary in an EC sausage", 12 letters, and it's that bloody word subsidiarity again. For those of weak character its appearance on a page is enough to make them turn up their eyes and turn over hastily. Lawyers assert that the clause in the Maastricht treaty defining it contains at least two contrary definitions. Mrs Thatcher describes subsidiarity as gobbledegoose. This is a word that carries on boring and boring, in the parliaments and leader columns of Europe.

Let us see whether we can discover any common sense in the linguistics of the dread word. It is long and Latinate, and very new. It was invented as a term of Roman Catholic jargon 61 years ago. A Roman Catholic exegete said airily the other day: "Oh, you should understand it, Philip. It is the Latin word for a legion that was detached and posted to a territory, with local autonomy to manage its own affairs without reference to higher authority." I could not remember any of that in Caesar. And I can find no trace of such a use in the classical sources.

What *subsidiary* means in classical Latin is reserve troops, a body of soldiers withheld from action as a reinforcement for the front line. For example, here is J. Caesar on campaign: "But the Tenth Legion, which had been stationed on slightly more level ground as a *subsidiary* or reinforcement, slowed down the Gauls who were advancing in a pretty undisciplined way." Reserve troops, reinforcement, or more generally help is not the meaning required by the EC.

Roman Catholic Latin is as odd as Roman Catholic theology is pedantic. Both can on rare occasions be terse and laconic. Father Agnellus Andrew, the British Franciscan who was the BBC's adviser on Roman Catholic affairs, was once asked by a producer how he could ascertain the official Roman Catholic view of heaven and hell for a programme on the subject. Father Andrew's memo in reply was a model of monosyllabic condensed sense: "Die." Would that all Roman Catholic apologetics and all EC directives were similarly intelligible and pungent.

The S-word was coined for Pope Pius XI in 1931, though the idea goes back to *Rescriptum Novarum*, Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical. It was updated in *Quadragesimo Anno* in 1931, to lay down the law about hierarchy and the role of the state, in this case notoriously a fascist one. The pope was translating the German word *subsidiarität*, which is derived from the adjective of the Latin *subsidius*, and means "of troops acting as the reserve to reinforce the front line". What Pope Pius pronounced was: "Of its very nature, the true aim of all social activity should be to help individual members of the social body, but never to destroy or absorb them."

The theologians worked over the gruesome new jargon like Jack Russell's worrying a squirrel. Here is one of their more penetrable definitions: "According to the doctrine of subsidiarity, as developed in various papal encyclicals, social problems should be dealt with at the most immediate (or local) level consistent with their solution." About ten years ago the EC unwisely picked up the Roman Catholic jargon for its own purposes. The wilder shores of theology are better left to theologians, who get centuries of pleasure out of such gobbledegoose.

One of the first attempts to pin down the novel EC use was made by *The Times*, with characteristic robustness and dandy: "The principle of subsidiarity—a meaningless or even misleading phrase in English—is being discussed in the European Parliament in connection with eventual revision of the Treaty of Rome. It is defined to mean that the European Community's activities should be limited to those which are better performed in common than by member states individually."

The short, unhappy life of the word "subsidiarity" is an awful warning against politicians trying to blind folk with clever lingo, and against borrowing that lingo from the Jesuitical pedantry of the Roman Catholic Church. All the word means is federal. The central authority has a subsidiary function, performing only those jobs that cannot be done effectively at a more immediate or local level. Instead of borrowing this long and suspicious word, the Euronomists would have done better to explain that federations are not necessarily bad. They come in all sizes and strengths, from the mildest (as of course the United Kingdom is) to the nastiest, like the old Soviet Union.

Subsidiarity is a classic example of a jargon word invented to bluff outsiders that something important is being conveyed. Precise meaning for the woolly notion of subsidiarity is going to have to be legislated by lawyers. The rest of us must grit our teeth and learn to live with the daft word.

A court-ordered caesarean poses the question how far society can go to save lives, says Alex McCall Smith

Law, liberty and maternity

Can it ever be right to force a patient to undergo medical treatment against their will? Those concerned with medical ethics would usually say that it cannot, except where the patient is mentally incompetent or too young to understand. Lawyers, on the whole, would say the same thing, arguing that the integrity of the human body is not to be violated, no matter how serious is the threat to health. On these grounds one should be able to refuse a blood transfusion, decline food and water, or reject any life-saving procedure one does not want. These are important freedoms, taken seriously by the law.

This week's decision to authorize the performance of a caesarean section on an unwilling patient is an alarming exception to the protection which the law normally affords those who do not want medical treatment. The circumstances of the case were unusual: a pregnant woman had refused the caesarean delivery of her baby on religious grounds, in spite of the

impossibility of the child being born naturally. The potential consequences of such a refusal are, of course, serious. Not only is the life of the unborn child threatened, but other children of the family might be left motherless should the mother herself die. Most rational people would therefore see such conduct as folly of the highest order. Why let an unborn baby die to satisfy a mother's objection to a relatively straightforward medical procedure?

The consequentialist approach to this is robust. The life of the unborn child is at stake, and in such a case the mother's right to control her treatment is outweighed by the child's interest in being born alive. In any conflict between a life and the right of people to make their own decisions about their bodies, the protection of the life ought to win.

It is easy to see the attractiveness of this position, but one should not accept it too readily. If the mother's right to refuse an operation is outweighed by the child's interest in being born alive, then the implications of this for abortion are very considerable. In addition, to deny a pregnant woman the control over her body which is normally enjoyed by anybody else, is to compromise her personal autonomy in a very significant way. If caesareans can be ordered over the woman's objection, then what other interventionist steps may be justified? Are we to use the coercive powers of the state to stop women drinking, smoking, or abusing drugs? Such conduct threatens the health of the foetus, and might even threaten its life, but it would constitute a major inroad into personal freedom if we were to say that

pregnant women cannot engage in risky or unhealthy behaviour. The issue of state intervention in maternal behaviour is a relatively new one in this country but it has become familiar in the United States. As long ago as the mid-1960s, American courts showed themselves willing to order compulsory medical treatment when pregnant women were refusing to follow medical advice. The motives for such intervention were, no doubt, good ones, but the effect of such decisions was distinctly sinister. Women who resisted blood transfusions on religious grounds were required to have them, and in several disastrous cases women were subjected to enforced caesareans. In one particularly distressing case a mother who was petrified of compulsory surgery went into hiding in order to have her

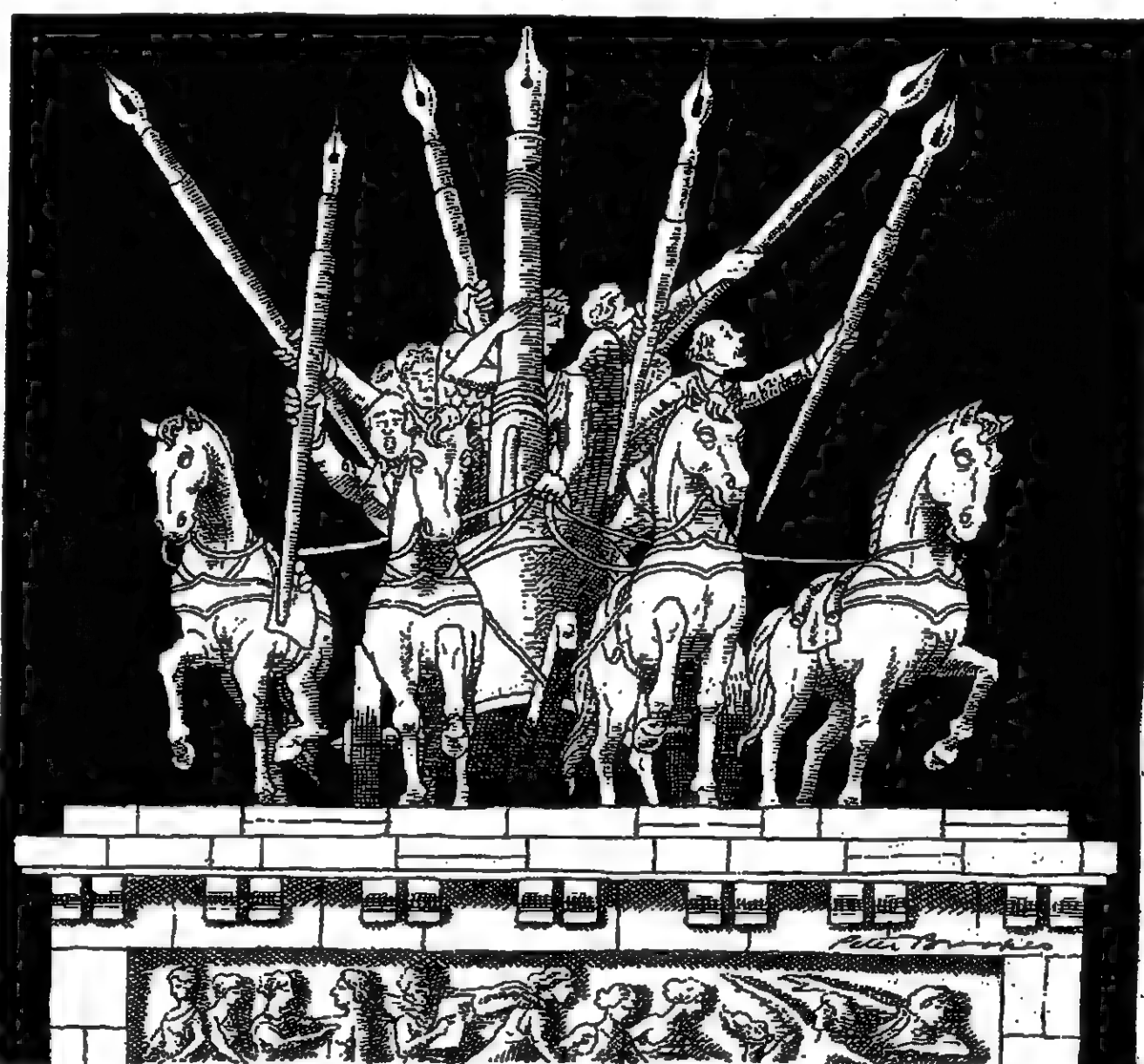
ed interference in the mother's freedom. By contrast, several more recent cases have shown a tendency to favour non-consensual treatment. In one of these cases a blood transfusion was authorized in the face of a patient's alleged religious objection. Here the court said that although everybody has a right to refuse treatment, such a refusal must be the product of rational reflection, which was lacking in this case.

Pregnant women should be afforded the normal courtesies when they make decisions about their health. They must be entitled to refuse treatment, even if their refusal is dangerous to them and to the foetus they carry. If their conduct causes the death of the foetus, then that is a matter for their conscience, and it should weigh very heavily indeed. The consequences of allowing compulsory treatment, though, are just too unattractive to accept.

Alexander McCall Smith is reader in law at Edinburgh University.

Encountering ghosts in Berlin

Bernard Levin salutes the cold warriors, whose war is still not won



I had not been in Berlin for many years, and the shock was considerable. The greatest cities always get worse, though I don't know why, in particular their great boulevards are steadily ruined—not by traffic or shoppers but governments. Can you remember the beauty and elegance of the Champs Elysees before it became a hideous refuse-dump? I can; and I can also remember the Kalverstraat in Amsterdam, where today a jostled walk down it would cause you to shudder, even before the drug-peddlers began to tug at your sleeves; and nearer home, what about the vile thing that is Oxford Street?

So I steel myself to revisit the Ku'dam, and needed all the steeling I could find. Berlin, though, has a better excuse than most. The fall of the Wall was one of the greatest moments in all history, but it has brought dreadful problems with the rejoicing. I was staying in the *ehemalige* East Berlin, which seems to have spread its sullen misery over the West, though surely it ought to be the other way round. Roadworks are everywhere, but the streets of the East still bear the names of the great swines of communism: imagine having to admit that you live in the Grotewohldstrasse—even Marx-Engels Platz would be preferable. Along the Unter den Linden the women of the Yugoslav refugees sit begging, while their menfolk have revived—of all things—the three-card trick.

And what was I doing in Berlin? Well, first, I wanted to walk freely through the Brandenburger Tor, which on my last visit had been made impossible by the edicts of wickedness. But my main purpose was to take part in a conference titled "A Last Encounter with the Cold War". And those in the conference, assembled in the Palais am Festungsgraben (made much more delicious for the knowledge that it used to house the Soviet Friendship Society), were the motley army which, without a shot fired, fought for the truth against lies, for reality against mirages, for steadfastness against capitulation, for civilisation against barbarism, for the peaceful word against the brutal blow, for applauding courage against existing cowardice, for—put most simply—democracy against tyranny. And we were right, entirely, completely, provably, joyfully, patiently and truthfully right. One of the leading figures in the army of

the truth was Norman Podhoretz, who summed it up: "We said—and never stopped saying—that communism was . . . no less evil than Nazism. We said—and never stopped saying—that communism had brought nothing but murder, political oppression, cultural starvation, and economic misery to the countries forced to suffer under its rule. We said—and never stopped saying—that no people had ever freely decided to live under communism, or ever would if given a choice. On all these points . . . we were not only opposed, but were sneered at, ridiculed and defamed. . . . And now we could rejoice,

however many fearsome problems and horrors have come to the surface from the collapse of communism. Our ranks, alas, had been thinned by death: men like Sidney Hook, Tibor Szamuely, Arthur Koestler, Charles Douglas-Horne, Raymond Aron are no more. But I looked around the conference chamber, I saw a host of those who fought the good fight. The heavy artillery came from Robert Conquest; his massively authoritative book *The Great Terror* documented Stalin's mass slaughter. The infinitely staunch Leo Labedz, with his meticulously accurate magazine *Survey*, poured more fire on the enemy. From the Antipodes (the

Australians were particularly staunch) came Peter Coleman with the splendid magazine, *Quadrant*, a rallying-place for the truth. From the United States, where—more than anywhere else—cowardice, mendacity and dishonesty joined hands to do down the truth, came Irving Kristol, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Richard Pipes, Edward Shils; from Hell came Vladimir Bukovsky; and it was particularly moving to see the frail form of Francois Bondy, helped on to the platform, his fire still burning bright. And we must never forget the men and women of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

And over the revels, there presided Melvyn Lasky, his beard sharp enough to stab any fellow-traveller, his mighty archives shelved in his head, and the reason we were all there. Mel was for almost all his life the editor of *Encounter*, the proverbial tiny candle that no amount of darkness could put out. It is often regarded as a wholly political, even polemical, organ, but that is an illusion; culture in its widest definition described *Encounter*, and particularly the culture that our enemies would destroy. Among the graver questions of the hour he published short stories, poems, the battles of historians, a vast range of literary discover-

ies; among his many "firsts" were the first full texts of the broadcasts which P.G. Wodehouse gave in Nazi Germany, and from which Wodehouse got dreadful and long-lasting opprobrium, though they were as innocent as he was.

Mel was emphatically one of those who fought the good fight, and though he is 72 there is no sign of flagging in him; the way he handled the contributors to the symposium was masterly, not least because the enormously wide spectrum of participants was even wide enough to encompass a figure who had been one of the oppressors in East Germany. I was invited, I suppose, as a representative of the Cold War P.B.L. Among the brass, I was a mere footslogger, but I had had the good fortune to serve under editors wise enough to let me have my head, and over the years I must have written not scores but hundreds of articles upholding the democratic values in the faces of those who would replace them with totalitarian evil.

Let me go back to Norman Podhoretz's summary of our rightness and their wrongness: "We were told that it was nothing short of blasphemous to see communism and Nazism as . . . morally equivalent. We were told that in some respects (economic security, health care, etc) conditions under communism were better than life under our own rotten system. And we were told that the communist regimes did indeed have the support of their peoples. It is important to stress that we were told these things not only by the communists themselves but by good liberals and social democrats. . . . The italics are mine. And it is that particular battle that I have been engaged in for what must now be nearly 40 years. Can it be true that orders for my demob have been issued, that even Mel Lasky can call it a day? Well, communism has not only been overthrown, but its unmitigated emptiness has been demonstrated beyond argument. But even as I bend down to take off my boots, the bugle sounds. I had forgotten China; at this very moment a huge throng of commentators on these matters are preparing to argue that although Soviet communism is indeed disgraced, Chinese communism is different—permitting free speech, giving its people a free standard of living, and without the cult of personality. Fall in; you too, Mel.

Sssh! Silver for sale

ONE of Bond Street's most firmly established jewellers has fashioned a "discreet" lifetime for Lloyd's names who wish to sell their family silver. Aristocrats of every hue have been queuing to use the new service at Tessiers, the 200-year-old family jewellers.

Among the items changing hands, Tessiers say, are silver



collections from some of Britain's best known stately homes, though the firm will not say which ones they are. Lloyd's has some 22,000 names, many of whom have

incurred six-figure losses. Among those who have lost money in the Lloyd's disaster—although that is not to say they have used Tessiers' services—are Sir Edward Heath, Susan Hampshire, Adrian Kushogol, Sir John Baring, Buster Mottram, Viscount Norwich, the Tory MP Paul Marland, Dame Shirley Porter, and Sir Freddie Laker.

Tim Watkins, managing director of Tessiers, says: "The mere fact that we have had to set up this service is a sign that the recession has struck at the very heart of the British establishment. High interest rates, business failures and the problems at Lloyd's have meant the effect of the recession is being felt across the board. It is old and new money that is affected."

Many arrive in tears at the Tessiers office. The firm's shop in New Bond Street reopens next month after a five-month renovation programme. "I can't give you names. Many are deeply embarrassed at the need to approach us. We do all we can to make them feel at ease. Often, if they have many things to sell, we will go to their home. If they come to us we talk to them in a private office," Watkins says. "We are well connected to the establishment. People know they can trust us," says



Watkins, whose customers include members of the royal family.

The most expensive item to be sold to meet debts was a £50,000 diamond, he says. Many of the family heirlooms will, alas, be sold abroad. But then Tessiers first made money selling jewels owned by nervous aristocrats during the French Revolution. *Plus ça change.*

Black dogs

WHEN is a walk-out not a walk-out? Ian McEwan and his publishers, Jonathan Cape, are not entirely sure. McEwan, who was shortlisted for the Booker prize, left Guildhall with his publishing entourage shortly after hearing that he had not won the prize.

Unfortunately the group forgot to consult their programmes for the evening which clearly stated that the chairman of the

judges, Victoria Glendinning, and the chairman of Booker, Sir Michael Caine, were still due to speak. They also failed to appear at the subsequent publishers' party at the Groucho Club.

"It's very embarrassing, really," says Rachel Kerr, publicity director for Cape. "We have been to the Booker for years and clearly know the form, but we simply forgot that there was more to come. Tom Maschler had invited us all back to his house for a drink and so we went."

Does Booker view this as a breach of etiquette? "Obviously it is nice if an author says until the end," says Christine Shaw, publicity director. "As to whether this was deemed a walk-out or whether it offended us, then the answer is no."

With their money halved by the joint prize, the Booker win-

ners were not planning anything too extravagant yesterday. "I think much of it will certainly go to paying off my parking tickets in Toronto," said Michael Ondaatje.

Barry Unsworth, meanwhile, has decided that the money should go towards his adopted home in the Umbrian hills of Italy. "I shall spend it on an ar-tisan well which we desperately need. You could say I shall be sinking my money into a deep hole, I suppose."

Coal facer

WITH 30,000 miners losing their jobs, Arthur Scargill's own employment prospects also look less than rosy. With a union reduced to barely 20,000 members from its peak of 718,000 in 1947, Scargill will find it almost impossible to sustain the NUM as a separate entity and merger with a larger union looks inevitable.

There is only one problem: whatever sympathy his colleagues in other unions are showing in the miners' current plight, none of them is keen to have Scargill in their own unions. The NUM has been in on-off talks with other unions, notably the largest of them all, the TGWU, for some time. So far they have foundered, not

merely on Scargill's own abrasive personality but also on his personal terms and conditions.

One plan, mooted at Transport House, is that under a merger Scargill would become a TGWU regional officer based in Sheffield. But a guarantee that Scargill's own wages and perks should be ring-fenced would have left the NUM boss on a salary in excess of £50,000, considerably more than that of Bill Morris, the TGWU general secretary, and £20,000 more than the union's other regional officers.

The irony cannot be lost on miners who face the bleak prospect of the dole queue. In his ten-year tenure as union leader Scargill has never successfully negotiated a single pay rise for his own members.

Lord Derwent, chairman of the London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association, is to be congratulated for making the world of Lovejoy more consumer friendly by introducing a code of practice. However, this does not extend as far as requiring antique shops to display the price on every object. The commitment was dropped when dealers pointed out that it would merely make it easier for antiquers to select the choicest items.



THE TASK AT BIRMINGHAM

■ Mr Major must stop pretending Maastricht is acceptable

When tomorrow's EC summit was announced last month, community leaders were wringing their hands, acknowledging their voters' revolt against their blueprint for a European Union and promising early remedial action. Today, there is the unmistakable sound of handwashing. No politician has proposals radical enough to restore the EC's lost *elan*; and nobody, of course, is to blame. It is hard to have high hopes for an emergency summit for which not even the host appears to have a strategy.

As originally advertised, the immediate tasks for the EC's leaders were to review the workings of the ERM and to start meeting Danish objections to Maastricht. Above all, the summit was to address the upsurge of popular anxieties about losing national identity in a bureaucratic superstate.

ERM reform now appears to be off the agenda, and there will be no more than a peek at the Danish problem. As for the gulf between Europe's politicians and their disaffected electorates, Jacques Delors has vacuously exhorted the Twelve to "leave Birmingham with a renewed enthusiasm for a common European family".

As host, John Major appears to be making the worst of what cards he holds. First, he trumpeted his determination to make ERM reform his priority. He must have known this would find scant support. Second, by joining the Franco-German chorus and insisting that Maastricht must be ratified unaltered, he has blocked sensible discussion of the Danish problem.

Mr Major still hopes to oil Maastricht's passage with a liberal dose of subsidiarity: a careful redefinition of the respective powers of national governments and EC institutions. Ambitiously defined, this could become a strategy; but not unless these curbs are clearly attached to Maastricht and firmly govern its interpretation. Whatever name is given to such an agreement, negotiating its

terms must in practice mean reopening the debate on what precisely is intended by Maastricht's proclaimed European Union.

Mr Major would prefer to think this battle done. But the EC is rudderless precisely because politicians insist that debate is over and their public insist on thinking it has just begun. Mr Major cannot honestly claim to have curbed the Commission's powers if he shrinks from a binding definition of what they are. Nor can he seriously believe that a mere gentleman's agreement on subsidiarity will surmount the constitutional and political hurdles facing Denmark. The Danish government cannot legally resubmit Maastricht unchanged to its voters; and the Danish opposition is united that any changes must be legally binding.

Prior to Birmingham, British ministers have been begging for ideas round Europe almost as mendicants. Help is at hand, from an unexpected quarter. Albeit with the aim of preserving its sole right to draft EC legislation, the Commission has been discussing detailed, radical proposals for the division of powers. The Commission is deadlocked; the politicians must take over.

Mr Major could make his own case of the draft's guiding principles: that power lies with member states "as a rule" and that there must be agreed, demonstrable gains from acting on an EC-wide basis. And he should challenge François Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl to stop pretending that the road is clear to ratifying Maastricht.

Weeks of negotiation lie ahead. That is why, at Birmingham, Mr Major's task is less to parade Britain at the heart of Europe, than to show that the heart can still pump new life into the EC. He has wasted three months of the presidency repeating what Maastricht does not mean for Britain. He must now lift his eyes from saving Maastricht (and his own face) to saving Europe from the consequences of the treaty's defects.

SENSE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

■ The poorest should not pay for government incompetence

As the government slumps in power and popularity, avoidance of flying mud becomes a top ministerial priority. This is not a time for winning glory, it seems, but for keeping heads down, dodging responsibility and ensuring that, whenever there is opprobrium to be had, someone else has it.

The social services secretary, Peter Lilley, is not the cabinet member most beloved by his colleagues. He is seen as a junior, as a Thatcherite, as a secret opponent of the Maastricht treaty and thus as a suitable fall guy for the government's problems.

Disturbing rumours about social-security cuts are emerging from the early discussions on public spending. There is pressure for cuts on means-tested benefits targeted to help the poor rather than on benefits universally available. Ministers want to avoid the need for emergency legislation to curb pensions or child benefit; forcing Mr Lilley to announce clearly unfair cuts is a small price.

It is bad enough that any benefits be cut when unemployment is approaching levels of nearly 3 million and the government is stubbornly refusing to take action to spur recovery. The higher-than-expected number of people out of work will cost the Exchequer £3.4 billion more than was planned for in next year's social security budget.

Last year's public spending plans allowed for average unemployment of 2.4 million in each of the next three years. The actual level could rise towards 4 million if the government does not match its tight public spending plans with a big easing of monetary policy.

Savings in the social security budget are, sadly, necessary. Mr Lilley made it clear in his party conference speech that his department could not be immune from public spending cuts. But those on the public spending committee who are hostile

to his views on Europe are apparently determined to make him roast in public disapproval by inflicting cuts on his department that will be hard to defend politically.

Vindictiveness is no way to run a policy, most particularly when the effects will fall on those least able to defend themselves. Moreover to pay for the Treasury's incompetence by reducing means-tested benefits such as family credit and income support for the poorest families and old age pensioners would be not just socially inequitable but economically wrong.

There are indeed arguments for rethinking the basis of social security policy. John Smith, the Labour leader, is to set up a social justice commission to consider how best to help those in need. Even some thinkers on the left are beginning to question the rationale for universal benefits such as state pensions and child benefit, particularly now that so many retired people earn occupational pensions too.

Meanwhile, some of the problems of means-tested benefits can now be reduced. Their take-up could be improved if the benefits system were to be integrated with the new computerised tax system. And the poverty trap could be addressed by allowing benefit recipients to earn a little on the side before their benefits are reduced, and then not taking benefits away pound for pound. There is even a case for paying family credit to the mother rather than the father; if that were done, one of the main advantages of child benefit would disappear.

But any switch from universal to means-tested benefit would best take place in a considered fashion, not as a panic reaction to an economic crisis. The most extraordinary feature of the rumours circulating about social security cuts is that they move in the opposite direction.

A MAN FOR FOUR SEASONS

■ Talent for Vivaldi cannot always last a lifetime

Nigel Kennedy, whose subbed grin and Cockney-kid persona introduced some harmless fun into the stiffer realms of music, is hanging up his fiddle at the age of 35. Or rather, he will play only rock or jazz to a live audience, and reserve his classical muse for the recording studio.

The haughty guardians of "serious" music-making will now be claiming good riddance, and hoping that Kennedy does not spend the next 30 years alternating profitably between farewells and comebacks.

Others will be sorry. Compared with the best, Kennedy never had the single-minded, masochistic drive to achieve absolute technical perfection. But he is an individualist. The music business of today, regimented and soulless, has already drummed out too many of his ilk.

Like his early mentor, Yehudi Menuhin, Kennedy was a child prodigy. Like Menuhin, he was subjected to a hothouse education, designed more as a fast track to the concert platform than as a way of developing a rounded personality. Kennedy's autobiography refers frankly to this: whereas Menuhin speaks of the "untarnished happiness" of his youth, Kennedy struggled on for decades after he, and his audiences, knew he was past his peak. Kennedy is wise to avoid such a mistake.

Kennedy and Menuhin both emerged surprisingly well from the ordeal of being

pushed into the harsh glare of fame as children. An alarming number of brilliant child musicians suffered mental difficulties later in life: the emotionally infantile Vladimir Horowitz, the psychiatrist-addicted Claudio Arrau, the pathologically reclusive Glenn Gould, the terminally depressed Sergei Rachmaninov.

But how do the brilliant children of yesterday, who produced their best work at an age when intuition was uncomplicated by fear or sophistry, face a lifetime of decline? Do they follow Rossini, who wrote the last of his many operas at 37 and then spent 40 years in blissful retirement? Or do they emulate Mendelssohn, who laboured worthily at oratorios to uplift Queen Victoria but never recaptured the divine spark that had led him, at the age of 15, to that miracle, the *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture?

The dilemma of early peaking is not confined to the arts. There are few sadder sights than a 17-year-old former gymnastics champion, her supple physique already too womanly for the cruel challenge of the beam. And the scientific community is at present digesting the mournful statistic that the majority of Nobel prizewinners in physics and chemistry died their most important research in their twenties and thirties. The misery of the phenomenally gifted? At least the only averagely gifted can be consoled that their best is yet to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Plugging holes in the ozone layer

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, The Times has thankfully broken the silence over the perilous state of the ozone layer (report and illustration, October 12). The urgency expressed by scientists contrasts sharply with the "Crisis, what crisis?" attitude of the policymakers as they approach November's international meeting on the Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer.

The proposed amendment to the protocol will allow developed countries to continue to produce ozone-depleting HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon) chemicals for 27 more years. A further ten-year "grace period" is to be extended to developing countries. This cannot be consistent with the position established in the September 1991 progress report on the environment while paper of 1990 to "work for the earliest practicable phase-out of ozone-depleting substances during the 1992 protocol negotiation".

The real answer does not lie in increased production of ozone-depleting HCFCs, but in taking a hard look at the technological choices available to eliminate all ozone-depleting chemicals. Greenpeace has produced a report and has circulated it widely in the business community showing that every major CFC and HCFC application can be replaced by safe substitutes, modest redesign or outright elimination. Government policy does not promote these alternatives, nor does it challenge the entrenched position of ozone-depleting chemicals with bans, restrictions or fiscal measures.

Against this background, the ozone layer is behaving as unpredictably as ever. No scientist claims fully to understand it, and most acknowledge that there is an unquantifiable risk of catastrophic "surprises" resulting from high levels of ozone-depleting chemicals, compounded by volcanoes, meteorological effects and as yet unexplained chemistry.

EC ministers will meet in Brussels next week to finalise their negotiating position on the protocol amendments. The UK must use its presidency to engineer a European response that matches the immediacy and severity of this crisis by insisting on an immediate halt to new production of all ozone-depleting chemicals.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas, N1,
October 12.

From Councillor G. R. Robson

Sir, Your report concerning the dramatic growth of the atmospheric ozone "hole" in the southern hemisphere makes disturbing reading, especially for those who live beneath it. It correctly mentioned the health threat to the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego and the military garrison on the Falklands now that the ozone hole has for the first time touched areas of permanent human habitation. It did not mention the civilian population of the Falklands, but of course we too share the risk. This causes us great concern.

It is ironic that we who live in the sparsely inhabited southern extreme of the world have done least to contribute to the damage in the atmosphere, and yet we may be among the first humans to be affected. Unless the problem is solved, however, we will certainly not be the last.

The achievement of this grim milestone on the road to ecological destruction is an appropriate time to implore the industrialised nations to cease their production of ozone-damaging agents.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. ROBSON (Member,
Executive and Legislative Councils,
Falkland Islands Government,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway,
Westminster, SW1,
October 12.

Hospital closures

From Mr W. F. Hendry

Sir, You report (October 8) that "London hospitals are spending millions of pounds on new buildings and equipment in an attempt to stave off closure". The opening of a new theatre suite at St Bartholomew's hospital is given as an example.

The first meeting to plan the replacement of the present operating theatres was held in 1978. They have been in constant use since the 1930s. Detailed planning started in 1984; work commenced in 1988 and has now reached completion, paid for by the North East Thames regional health authority.

As chairman and then consultant representative on the theatre reconstruction working party throughout these 13 years I find it hard to accept your description of this carefully planned and executed modernisation programme as a "spending spree".

Yours faithfully,
BILL HENDRY
(Consultant Urologist,
Directorate of Urology,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Smithfield, EC1,
October 8.

From Dr David Barlow

Sir, Your health services correspondent cites the expansion of services for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) at St Thomas' as an example of a hospital trying to buy its way out of closure. In 1990 our clinic, one of 26 in London and 230 in the UK, treated more than one in 20 of England's cases of gonorrhoea.

The increasing number of patients from all over London and elsewhere who choose to use our open-access service (in spite of cramped facilities), together with an expanding workload connected with HIV infection, make this a necessary and logical step.

Like the enlargement of the accident and emergency department at

St Thomas' (imperative because of the closure of casualty facilities at the Westminster hospital in 1993), the development of STD services has been planned for over three years, long before the Tomlinson enquiry was set up.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARLOW
(Consultant Physician and
Clinical Director,
Department of Genito-urinary
Medicine,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.

From Mr John Chawner

Sir, I write to correct an impression that may have been given by your report (September 11) of the BMA's position on the imminent Tomlinson report on health care in London and which now appears to be gaining currency — for example in the comments ascribed to Dr Ken Grant, manager of St Bartholomew's hospital, in your report (October 7) of his resignation.

The BMA has not said that it will support the government over London hospital closures: clearly we do not even know at this stage what the government's decisions will be. What I did say was that we recognised that changes are coming in London, and that we are looking to the government to ensure that these changes are managed sensibly.

This means that adequate services must still be available for patients locally and that individual doctors must be treated fairly.

The BMA will be concentrating its efforts on minimising the trauma for our London members rather than getting involved in battles over the future of individual hospitals.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHAWNER
(Chairman, Central Consultants' and Specialists' Committee),
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
October 7.

Religious schools

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, The Muslim leaders you report (October 7) to be "amazed and upset" by the alleged hostility of NASUWT to Muslim schools misinterpret our position in response to the white paper, "Choice and Diversity".

Far from trying to deny Muslims, or indeed any group, the right to establish voluntary schools we recognise that this right, if granted to some, is extremely difficult to deny to others.

The interests of those seeking to establish Islamic voluntary-aided schools will be much better served by the government respecting the compromise in the 1944 Education Act, which has stood the test of time, whereby religious schools would finance 15 per cent of the capital costs in return for independence in religious education and appointment of staff.

Those wishing to establish Muslim schools could then press their case without the issue becoming embroiled in the wider religious controversy and the obviously desperate ploy of the government to breathe life into its faltering grant-maintained programme.

The danger NASUWT was referring to stems from the accompanying proposal of the government to provide, after the first year, 100 per cent funding to all such voluntary schools that become grant-maintained, thereby threatening to throw overboard the very delicate compromise reached in 1944.

An obvious anomaly is created with existing voluntary-aided schools which continue to have to find the 15 per cent themselves. They would have a strong financial incentive to seek grant-maintained status and that probably explains the government's motivation.

NASUWT fears that when the full implications of these proposals sink in, especially in some areas of the United Kingdom where religious voluntary-aided schools are not universally viewed as helping society, religious passions, both for and against, could be aroused.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DE GRUCHY,
General Secretary,
NASUWT (The career teachers' organisation),
5 King Street,
Covent Garden, WC2,
October 8.

Guide to excellence in universities

From Baroness Perry of Southwark, Vice-Chancellor of the South Bank University

Sir, I was disappointed to see so many flaws in your information for those attempting to choose a university, compiled by Professor Tom Cannon (reports, October 12, 13).

By his own admission the information is drawn from different years, "derived from published or secondary statistics", and includes peer review assessment of research in the ex-polytechnics, when to my knowledge no such assessment exists. It admits to being "a poll of polls" — a mathematical device hardly reinforced by recent experience of opinion pollsters.

Figures published for the new universities among others are said to derive from the A-level, higher or other points required for admission. But this sector has long been dedicated to carrying out the government's policies of wider access for mature students, where rests of A-level points are only marginally relevant.

The real danger of the "league table" is that it runs directly counter to government policy for the efficient expansion of higher education. The statistics for staff-student ratios present those who are least efficient as the "best". Part-time students, essential to government policies for training, are excluded. A substantial proportion of sub-degree work penalises the institutions concerned.

Our higher education system is already well suited to the enormously wide range and variety of needs of young people and their future employers. It is one of the great strengths of the new unified system that this variety should be enhanced and strengthened.

Polls which present as "the good university" those whose excellence is in pure research and the non-applied academic disciplines, while downgrading those whose excellence lies in vocational and professional training together with applied research, do poor service to all concerned.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
PERRY OF SOUTHWARK,
Vice-Chancellor,
South Bank University,
103 Borough Road, SE1,
October 13.

From Dr David Heald

Sir, The figures published in your league table of British universities are misleading. Why, for example, should completion rates and the number of firsts awarded figure so prominently as criteria? There is surely a case for arguing that a university's quality should embrace the thirds and pass degrees awarded.

In my experience the barriers to university entry are being lowered and, with one person in three apparently to be foisted on them by government policy, universities will be punished if their wastage rates rise.

The theory is that low wastage rates mean that academic standards are being maintained. The reverse is likely to be true: lowered entry standards ought to mean that wastage

rates will rise. The fact that universities will have a vested interest in not letting this happen is no guarantee whatever of the maintenance of standards. A third used to be an honourable degree for heavy rugby types (now politically incorrect) and a first for pimply swots, who often failed to fulfil their promise. Nowadays, in my experience, students complain if they are awarded lower seconds and a third is considered a form of irredeemable academic damnation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HEALD,
Faculty of Humanities,
Darwin College,
The University, Canterbury, Kent,
October 13.

From Mr Peter Prince

Sir, Our daughter, with grade A passes in all three of her advanced levels, has been choosing a university. In the end she decided on a large northern university because she liked the look of the course, the location, and the atmosphere. In other words, her choice was based on her own needs and interests — surely the only proper basis for any student to make up her mind about where to study.

But now along comes your mischievous Good University Guide, which reveals nothing more intelligent than a race for the line in which there are only ever two real runners and all other contenders are also-rans. Is main effect, I suppose, will be to convince great numbers of uncertain parents and would-be students that it is only within Oxbridge that a true university education can take place. Having myself, years ago, endured an extremely disappointing educational experience at Cambridge, I know how especially false that notion can be.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PRINCE,
31 Meteor Street, SW11,
October 13.

From Mr T. G. Miller

Sir, What a pity that your very rough guide to universities should produce such a huffing and puffing from old and middling and new.

Having served — if that is the right word — in numbers 1 (Cambridge), 48 (Keele), 44 (Reading), and 90 (North London) of your table (October 12), with a colonial university college thrown in to give added spice, I reckon that the order of excellence is about right.

Nevertheless, just as there are undoubtedly patches of excellence right through the list to the very bottom, so also there are probably patches of the other thing up to the very top.

Instead of complaining about methodology, would it not be better to learn from what is, to the "non-academic" public, an interesting and useful exercise?

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE MILLER,
The Plough, Docking Road,
Sedgeford, Norfolk,
October 13.

Economic guesswork

From Professor Emeritus David Bell

Sir, Who has the money to spend? In 1991, according to published data from the Central Statistical Office (*Monthly Digest of Statistics*, tables 1.1 and 1.5), the personal sector spent an amount equal to 88 per cent of the GDP compared with 79 per cent in 1987, all in 1985 values.

Yet one needs only to see the closing of useful shops in a small market town to appreciate the present difficulties of retail trade.

In contrast, there is one DIY shop in this neighbourhood which has beaten the recession by moving up-market and later into the leisure market, with mountain bikes at £300 to £1,000.

To be fair, a taxation policy (including local taxes) needs knowledge of who has "spare" money. Such

information is probably available to the government, e.g. from the Family Expenditure Survey, so why not use it?

I hope it is not because macro-economics excludes attention to detailed facts.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. BELL,
87 East End, Wokingham,
Beverly, Humberside.

From Mr Kenneth Winkles

Sir, It is not quite incredible that the Treasury does not seem to have had any contingency plan to anticipate the situation which would arise in the event of UK withdrawal from the ERM — surely always a possibility?

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH WINKLES,
Moor House, Fishers Wood,
Sunningdale, Ascot, Berkshire.

Trade in Azerbaijan

From Dr Tamara Dragadze

Sir, Contrary to the views expressed by Lord Avebury and others (letter, October 7) Michael Heseltine should be congratulated for promoting trade in Azerbaijan. The prosperity it will bring will undoubtedly spread eventually to the rest of the region.

The Armenian parliament has passed the most liberal laws in the former Soviet Union on taxation and foreign currency and Erevan's talented businessmen are keen to put their skills to use. As a result of their diaspora they are more experienced in foreign commerce than any other former Soviet nation. The continuing war is frustrating their efforts.

It is baffling members of Parliament to flout the paramount rule of even-handedness and thus to miss the opportunity which their status bestows to influence all sides to lay down their arms and come to their senses.

Yours faithfully,
TAMARA DRAGADZE,
University of London,
School of Slavonic and
East European Studies,
Senate House, Malet Street, WC1,
October 8.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Figures of fun

From Mr William Page

Sir, To restrict characterisations of Christ, as in the *Spitting Image* cartoon (report and photograph, October 12), would be a different form of religious intolerance.

If Jesus is the omnipotent God that Christians believe Him to be, surely He is big enough to be lampooned in the press and on the screen.

Christianity is based on tolerance and forgiveness, but what about other, less tolerant faiths? In view of what happened to Salman Rushdie, would *Spitting Image* be as eager to poke fun at other religious figures?

Yours faithfully,
BILL PAGE,
62 Chambers Lane, NW10,
October 12.

Been there, done that

From Mr R. G. Maling

Sir, My recent mundane purchase of next year's diary was enlivened by the title: not just recycled paper, but "Recycled Diary". Is this the classic example of déjà vu?

Yours faithfully,
R. G. MALING,
Windfall, Butlers Cross,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
October 11.

**BUSINESS 21-28**

Accountancy: so dull as the ICA goes public

**ARTS 29-31**

The voice of Lake Woebegon returns home

**SPORT 35-40**

Fishing: the search for a giant pike

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ON
THURSDAY
page 29

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 1992

BUSINESS TODAY**FORCE FIVE**

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Great Storm, Jon Ashworth recalls the stock market crash that followed
Page 25

POUNDED

Sterling is on the slide again, with the money markets anticipating that the government will be forced into cutting interest rates
Page 23

STICKY SALES

Thornton's, the chocolate retailer, has discovered that general elections and Easter eggs sales do not mix
Page 22

BY DESIGN

A High Court judge has ruled that Sir Terence Conran's investment in Fitch RS can go ahead.
Page 23

Britain set for longest recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE economy appears to be falling into deeper recession, judging by unexpectedly bad figures on industrial production and manufacturing output in August.

The industrial production figures, published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office, combined with Tuesday's announcements of coal industry closures, have almost dashed hopes of a return to economic growth in Britain before the end of this year.

Industrial production fell by 0.3 per cent in August after a rise of 1.0 per cent the previous month. The more economically significant figures for manufacturing output declined by 0.2 per cent after holding steady in July.

A further sharp fall in production is widely expected to be announced for September, because of continuing declines in motor industry output and the uncertainty created by the government's unsuccessful battle to keep the pound in the ERM. As a result, manufacturing output is almost certain to be lower in the third quarter than in the second, while industrial production, including energy output, may be flat at best.

Looking further ahead, the closure of about one-third of Britain's coal industry will reduce industrial production by 1.2 per cent during the fourth quarter. The direct result will be to cut gross domestic product in the fourth quarter by about 0.4 percentage points, even disregarding any knock-on effects on other industries, such as equipment manufacturing and railway transport. The coal industry

■ Pit closures could prolong Britain's recession. It could now last for ten quarters

cuts could therefore guarantee that the recession, as measured by official statistics, will continue into the fourth quarter. A decline in GDP during the fourth quarter would make this recession the longest in British history, with ten consecutive quarters of economic decline. Between 1979 and 1981, GDP declined for only five quarters.

The August production figures showed weakness across a wide range of industrial sectors, with the exception of North Sea oil and gas and investment goods. The most significant fall was in consumer goods output, which fell 0.7 per cent in the month, largely as a result of cuts in car output.

There was also a sharp 1.5 per cent fall in water and energy output, excluding oil and gas extraction. Government statisticians said the three-month output trend was still slightly positive. Both manufacturing output and industrial production were 0.1 per cent higher in the last three months than in the three months before. But officials conceded that even this trend looked less favourable than in July. The CSO said the underlying rate of growth in manufacturing output was now only 0.5 per cent annually. Last month it estimated the growth trend as 1 per cent.

Comment, page 21



Left off: ProShare is launched yesterday by Neil Stapley, left, Sir Christopher Harding, Geoffrey Maddrell, Joe Palmer, and Sir Peter Thompson

Campaign aims for wider share ownership

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND LINDSAY COOK

A campaign to promote individual share ownership, under pressure from high dealing charges and the volatile stock market, was launched in London yesterday, with backing from industry, the government and the Stock Exchange.

The ProShare Association takes over from the Wider Share Ownership Council, which was set up in the 1980s to preach the gospel of shareholder democracy, but failed to convince the vast majority of small investors to buy anything other than a handful of privatisation stocks.

Unlike its predecessor, the ProShare council is well funded with a budget of more than £1 million a year for its first three years, and will take a more active role in helping small investors understand the mechanics of active investment in the stock market.

Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman of ProShare, and the president of the NFC, one of Britain's most successful examples of employee share ownership, frankly admitted the scale of the task facing the body. "What we've embarked on is almost like climbing Everest," he said.

The difficulties facing the new campaign were heavily underlined by further evidence that illiquidity, one of the main deterrents for small investors, is continuing to dog trading in smaller stocks.

The new system, to be called the Stock Exchange Alternative Trading Service (Seats) will begin on November 16, and will allow for the registration of single market-makers alongside the bulletin board.

Sir Andrew Hugh-Smith, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said the bulletin board "was never intended to be set in stone and in spite of the fact that it has proved successful for many companies, the lack of continuous two-way prices has been a concern to investors and companies".

The liquidity problem was also highlighted by news that UBS Phillips & Drew is to stop making a market in more than 200 small and medium-sized UK stocks. UBS said the stocks it had abandoned were traded infrequently and called for a more efficient means of trading "illiquid securities."

UBS still makes market in 850 stocks.

Direct individual investment in shares has also been hit by the popularity of collective investment products. Figures released yesterday showed that a record £2.26 billion was invested in personal equity plans in the year ending on April 5.

Last year, 640,000 conventional Peps were taken out and, in the period from January to the end of the financial year, a further 110,000 single company plans were invested with total subscriptions of £270 million. These Peps were launched in January and allow investors to invest up to £3,000 in a single company each year in addition to a separate Pep of up to £6,000. Investors who sign up for

membership of ProShare at £30 a year, will receive a range of benefits, including a monthly newsletter, and an offer of a free half-hour interview with a local stockbroker. ProShare is hoping to sign up at least 100,000 members.

A separate initiative aimed at improving relations between companies and their larger investors was launched by the CBI. The national manufacturing council of the CBI produced guidelines for good investor relations. "It is no use manufacturers complaining that the City is not interested in investing for the longer term, if we are failing to get our message across," Mark Radcliffe, deputy director general of the CBI, said.

Recalling 1987, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7065 (-0.0090)
German mark 2.5012 (-0.0269)
Exchange index 82.7 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1877.9 (-13.1)
FT-SE 100 2574.7 (-10.0)
New York Dow Jones 3210.61 (+9.19)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17344.03 (-146.64)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 9%
3-month Interbank, 8 1/4-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills, 8 1/4-9 1/4%
US: Prime Rate, 6%
Federal Funds, 4%
3-month Treasury Bills, 2 9/16-2 5/8%
30-year bonds, 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York, £1 7138
E: DM 5072
S: DM 1.4823
S: Sfr 1.3640
S: FF 14.3650
Yen 207.62
Index, 62.7
ECU 1.787229
SDR 1.787229
SDR 1.787229
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London: Fixing, AM \$343.30 PM \$343.75
Close \$343.40-343.80
New York: Close \$343.75-344.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Nov) \$20.65/bbl (\$20.70)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.4 September (1987 = 100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Pit closures will create jobs fallout

By PATRICIA TEHAN

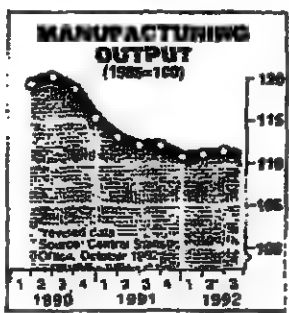
TENS of thousands of jobs will go and hundreds of British Coal suppliers will suffer after this week's decision to close 31 mines and axe 30,000 jobs by March.

British Rail's most profitable business, its rail freight arm, will be worst hit. Trainload Freight contributed a £67.5 million operating surplus to BR in the year to March 1992. It was by far its most profitable business but the group slumped into a £144.7 million loss after interest and exceptional items.

Trainload carried 75 million tonnes of coal, 60 million tonnes of it to the power generators. This compares with just 18 million tonnes of metal, 13 million tonnes of construction products and 10 million tonnes of petrol.

Rail unions were yesterday seeking meetings with BR to assess the implications of the pit closures on rail jobs.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said the closures "beggared belief". He



did not rule out industrial action.

Derrick Fullick, of Aslef, the footplate men's union, said he feared 11 coal depots would have to close with up to 3,500 men either losing their jobs or having to be relocated.

A Trainload spokeswoman said it was too early to say what the effect would be as the company's customers, the power generators and other industrial firms, determine what it carries. She said if the generators switch from British coal to imports, Trainload would bid to carry the imports.

Mining equipment suppliers will be forced out of business. Yesterday, there was

talk that four Yorkshire firms had already closed their doors.

Bill Morrell, director general of the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies, with 50 members employing 22,000 staff, said: "The whole of the mining machinery manufacturing industry is in a deep state of shock. We knew it was coming, we had a fair idea of the size of the cuts. The thing that has taken our breath away is the staggering speed with which it will happen."

He said member companies had not had chance to work out what the effect on business will be. Peter Graves, company secretary at Hunslet Holdings, the Leeds subsidiary in Leeds that supplies underground railway engines, said the company has been building up its overseas markets as its business with British Coal has reduced. Over 40 per cent of its sales are still with British Coal, but he said: "We anticipate that it will reduce". However, he said Hunslet expects to continue to provide spares and service to remaining pits.

Malcolm Edwards, former British Coal commercial director, said the pit closures are likely to lead to the closure of 12 coal-fired power stations with the loss of 5,000 jobs. He said teams of mining contractors will be laid off and "equipment suppliers will be slaughtered".

Mr Edwards said British Coal contracts out services including catering and cleaning, engineering and accounting, which will all be hit.

He estimated that for each of the 30,000 British Coal miners and administrators who lose their jobs another one from the supply industry will go. That, he said, was a conservative estimate.

The Nottingham Building Society said yesterday that it was ready to give financial advice to miners and their families, following the announcement that nine pits are to close in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire coalfields by March.

The society will open its doors to anyone, not just customers, who need advice on how to cope with redundancy.

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Lord Forte bows out after 60 years

By JON ASHWORTH

ROCCO Forte has been elected chairman of the Forte hotel and catering group, taking over from his father, Lord Forte of Ripley, who is retiring after 60 years in the business.

Lord Forte will take over from Lord Thorneycroft as president of the company. Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman of Guinness, has been appointed non-executive deputy chairman. Sir Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo Holdings, has been made a non-executive director.

Mr Forte, who is now chairman and chief executive, takes on his new role at a difficult time for the leisure industry. The Forte group saw interim profits fall from £42 million to £24 million in the half year to July. Earnings per share dropped from 3.8p to 1.0p. The shares, which topped 350p in 1989, eased 3p to 150p yesterday.

Life begins at Forte, page 27

Glyke produces a glitch for Wellcome shares

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE life of a pharmaceutical analyst is not for the nervous. Misunderstood and ill-digested reports from obscure medical journals can dramatically destabilise share prices that are in the stratosphere by comparison with the rest of the stock market.

But the rumour that sent shares in the mighty Wellcome crashing yesterday morning was a cracker even by the sector's standards. The evocatively named Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine claimed to have found a plant extract that inhibited HIV. Reports from Hong Kong suggested

that clinical studies proved the medicine had no side effects and was a safer alternative to AZT, the commonest used chemical drug that is a big money-spinner for Wellcome.

The herbal drug, extracted from the Chinese herb *Glycyrrhiza uralensis* and named "glyke," was apparently developed by experts who spent four years in Tanzania researching the virus.

Wellcome shares were off 12p before ending 7p lower at 949p. Francis Gregory, pharmaceutical analyst at Robert Fleming, said: "My background is as a pharmacist, and this is something I would take very much with a pinch of salt."

He is sticking to his five-year

forecast that earnings at Wellcome will exceed 20 per cent and points out that AZT is far from being the company's only compound.

A more cynical view might be that it is almost impossible for a stockbroker to lose money by selling when the shares are firm and picking up the stock cheap after the next rumour.

The Wellcome publicity machine has fought a losing battle against bizarre market rumours since the mid-1980s. A cure for AIDS is a medical Holy Grail, and the immense amount of work going on around the world produces a plethora of research. Adding to this are the off-the-wall

cures often touted by charlatans, which over the years have included Chinese cucumbers, peptide tea and extract of crab.

AZT was initially a natural product originating in herring sperm, although it is now manufactured at some expense, and similar natural remedies could exist somewhere. But a Wellcome spokeswoman said: "There's a long way between early stage results and having a product that's licensed on the market and useful. I think it's wrong to people who have HIV and AIDS to make them believe that something is very close to the answer they want, because it may not be."

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TEMPUS

N Brown proves it is still able to deliver what the City wants

PURELY as a measure of the changes that have rocked the retail sector since the glory days of the mid-1980s, yesterday's interim figures from N Brown Group score highly. Five years ago it was the trendy, fast-growing, high street niche boutiques that set the City's pulses racing. Now, in the depths of the recession, a Manchester company specialising in mail order catalogues for middle-aged customers is proving one of the top performers in the sector.

At a time when the retail market is still flat on its back, N Brown's figures are undoubtedly impressive. Pre-tax profits for the half year to end-August were up 14.5 per cent at £7.44 million, while like-for-like sales rose almost 10 per cent. The interim dividend is up 11 per cent to 1.95p.

Some of the improvement is due to the acquisition of Odbams, the electrical equipment mail order retailer, from the receivers last December. But the real strength of N Brown is its commitment to long-term investment. The pain of the major reorganisation of its warehousing has now flowed through the profit and loss account and the benefits, both in terms of customer service and reduced costs, should be felt from now on.

The only small blemish on the record is an unfortunate foray into property and financial services dating back to the mid-1980s. These operations only broke even in the first half of the year but the company seems happy to run with them until market conditions pick up.

Prospects in the early weeks of the Autumn season continue to look promising with annual growth in orders running to high single digits, the company says. The company could easily make £18.5 million pre-tax profits in the current year, giving about 17p of earnings. On yesterday's price of 289p, up 7p, the



Firefighter: Gerry Robinson has put his stamp on Granada over the past year

shares are rated on a multiple of just under 17 times. Despite Brown's reputation for delivering the goods, physically and financially, the shares have suffered in the recent mark-down of smaller company stocks and, at a 5 per cent discount to the sector, look on the cheap side.

Granada

JUST a year ago, an "ignorant upstart caterer" took over at the top of that pearl of independent television, Granada Group. The epithet, coined by the comedian John Cleese, was accepted, with

rather more grace than it was bestowed, by Gerry Robinson, who moved across from Compass Group after the sacrifice of Derek Lewis, the former chief executive.

Only last week, Mr Robinson was again stamping his authority on Granada with the appointment of Graham Wallace, formerly group finance director, to replace Tom Cole, who built up the British rental business, now accounting for more than half group profits.

The City is now wondering where Mr Robinson, after a year of fire-fighting which saw the share price rise £1 to

269p, will take Granada. A reported interest in Gardner Merchant, the catering business which Forte has already narrowly failed to sell to Mr Robinson's old employer, Compass, points towards the services sector.

Much of the lustre has come off Granada TV since the franchise round which propelled newcomers such as Carlton Communications into the limelight. Rentals is a mature business in a duopoly shared with Thorn EMI and will clearly be run for cash.

Lindsay Russell, at Nomura, is confident that Mr Robinson will not repeat the

mistakes of his predecessor but gives a warning that ambitious acquisitions like Gardner Merchant will require equity issues. Shareholders could be therefore heading for interesting, if choppy, waters again.

Thorntons

THE recent general election has been blamed for many of the country's ills, but adding to these poor Easter egg sales would seem to stretch credibility. Nevertheless, Thorntons insists the threat of the impending poll frightened people away from the high street and prevented them buying chocolate goodies.

This and the heatwave in early summer caused like-for-like sales to fall 4 per cent in the first six months of the year, and pre-tax profits for the year to end-June fell 23 per cent to £9.2 million. John Thornton, the chairman, is leading an aggressive expansion drive. He is planning to increase the number of shops in Britain in the next five years from 395 to 650. In the same period, Thorntons intends to triple its chain in France to 150 stores, despite losses of £750,000 last year.

The timing of Thorntons' expansion is understandable. Two years ago it cost the group £170,000 to rent and fit out a new store. The property slump has reduced that to only £50,000.

Even so, the plans show more confidence in the economy than most other retailers have, and Thorntons may saturate the British high street long before it reaches its target. At least the expansion will not strain the group's balance sheet. Thorntons' net debt is only £2 million and the group should be able to fund most of the openings from cash flow.

In the shorter term, profits should rebound to £11.3 million this year. But a p/e ratio of 14 already discounts the improvement and the shares at 165p are up with events.

London's investment challenges New York

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE pace of international investment continues to quicken despite the world recession, according to a report by Technometrics, the investor relations data company.

The report says London is challenging New York as the world's second largest investment centre, despite fund managers pulling almost \$5 billion out of America in the past year.

Tokyo maintains its place as the world's most powerful investment city, despite a disastrous fall in the value of its funds under management because of the slump in the Japanese stock market.

The report shows that fund managers throughout the world are continuing to expand their international shares portfolios. The total of foreign equities held by American fund managers rose by 6 per cent to \$132 billion, while fund managers in Switzerland, France and Germany increased their investments in American companies by almost 20 per cent.

Technometrics estimated that Japanese investment firms bought a net \$3.6 billion of foreign equities in the past year although this is a sharp fall from 1990.

The City's fund managers turned their backs on American markets to concentrate on investing in fixed bonds and continental European equities. The value of London's holdings in America fell \$4.7 billion to \$48.8 billion, while European assets rose 11 per cent to \$80.9 billion.

Funds managed in Tokyo fell \$12.1 billion, but the city is easily the largest equity centre in the world with \$1,692 billion under management.

Second is New York, where funds rose \$86 billion to \$507 billion. The value of assets managed in the City rose \$67 billion to \$477 billion. The City controls almost twice as many assets as Geneva, its nearest European rival, while the combined investments managed in Paris and Frankfurt total only \$304 billion.

Serif returns to the black after shake-up

HEAVY restructuring at Serif, once best known as the maker of Trivial Pursuit, has sent the group back into the black at half-time, a pre-tax profit of £143,000 in the six months to end-June contrasting with a loss of £855,000 last time. Shares in the former stock market high-flier celebrated with a 3p rise to 14½p despite an attributable loss of £571,000 after a £714,000 extraordinary item. This relates mainly to further write-offs following the closure of businesses.

There is again no interim dividend. John Pryke, the chief executive, said the business was now trading profitably, although margins were tight and the printing markets the group serves were still highly competitive. Serif no longer produces Trivial Pursuit and has also ended a brief flirtation with Nintendo, the games manufacturer. The management is planning further product rationalisation and cost-cutting.

News Corp issue

THE issue of 40 million new shares in The News Corporation, the international media group that owns The Times, will raise US\$697 million, the maximum hoped. The international issue, which is being handled by Merrill Lynch in four tranches, has been priced at Aus\$24.10 (£10.20) in Australia, near to market prices, while the issue of American depository receipts, which will absorb 18 million of the new shares, is priced at US\$34.83. News Corp is also to raise US\$1 billion in senior debt. Proceeds of the share issue, which will increase share capital by more than 10 per cent, will be used to reduce bank borrowings.

Stempel in hospital

ROBERT Stempel, chairman of General Motors, is expected to remain in George Washington University hospital in Washington until today at least, the company said. Mr Stempel, 59, was admitted to the hospital Tuesday afternoon after falling ill during a business meeting. Mr Stempel has undergone tests to find the cause of the illness. He was reported to be stable but in a serious condition, although in good spirits and anxious to return to work.

Pochin's steady

POCHIN's, the building and civil engineering contractor, maintained profits at £2.4 million before tax in the year to end-May, despite a 15 per cent fall in turnover to £32.8 million, helped by income from land and property sales. The contracting business and the plant and concrete pumping company both suffered as a result of the recession. The final dividend is 2½p (16p), making 29p (24p) for the year, payable from earnings marginally lower at 167.6p, against 169.6p.

Property group in red

CAPITAL and Regional Properties is holding the interim dividend at 0.3p a share. The property investment company incurred losses of £136,805 before tax in the half-year to June 26, against profits of £248,027 in the first half of 1991 when there was a £451,000 surplus from a property sale. Losses were 1.48p a share, compared with earnings of 1.12p. The company is to continue acquiring property in Britain and is seeking further investment opportunities in America.

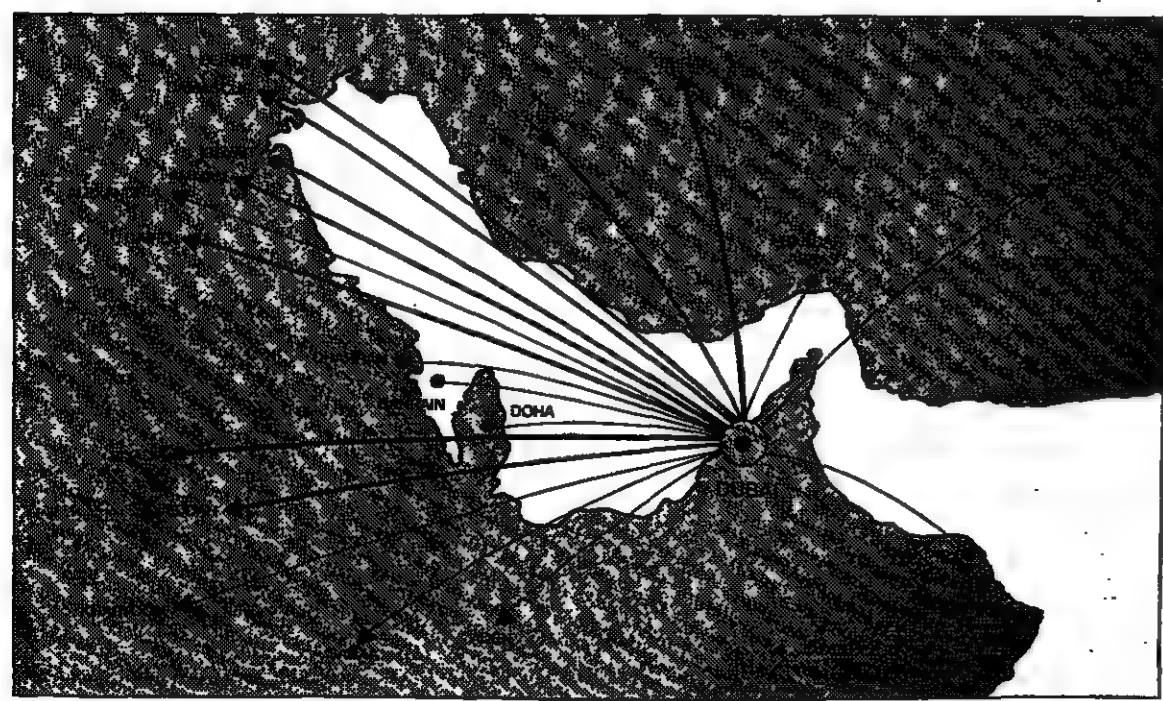
Delyn lifts payout

DELYN Group, the packaging company, is increasing the interim dividend by 11 per cent from 0.45p a share to 5p, after lifting profits from £218,000 before tax to £500,000 in the half-year to August 2. Profits included an exceptional credit of £104,000 from the sale of land for development. Earnings rose from 1.27p a share to 3.94p. Turnover was reduced from £6.63 million to £6 million but operating profits advanced from £442,000 to £496,000.

Berry Birch advances

BERRY Birch & Noble, the financial services company, is doubling its interim dividend to 2p a share and has restated its intention to consider further acquisitions. In the six months to end-July, pre-tax profits rose from £368,392 to £518,571 and earnings from 3.8p a share to 6.3p. Turnover was £3.16 million (£2.7 million). All five business streams, including personal financial planning, pensions and mortgages, reported increased levels of activity.

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Turnround at Borland

By JONATHAN PROYN

BORLAND International, the American computer software company that is quoted on the USM, has reported a turnround in its second-quarter performance from a \$116.6 million pre-tax loss to a \$6.5 million profit.

The profit was struck on revenues for the three months to end-September of \$127.8 million, a 12 per cent increase. The turnround was achieved mainly through a massive reduction in operating expenses from \$205.9 million to

\$91.4 million. Philippe Kahn, the president, chairman and chief executive officer of the California company, said: "We are pleased with the strong initial demand for Quattro Pro for Windows."

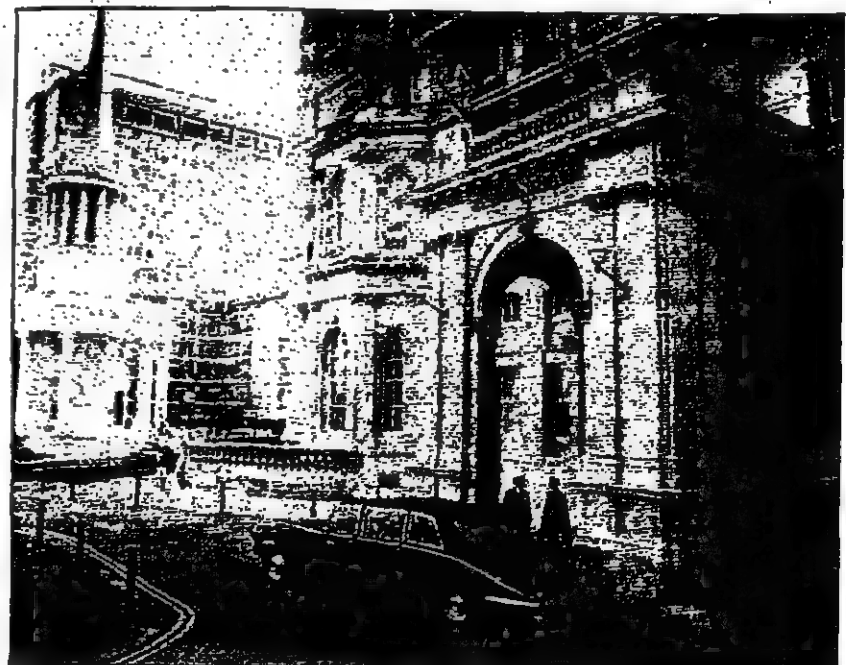
The results also reflect record revenues for the latest version of Paradox, one of its software products.

Net income per common share was \$0.2 compared with a loss of \$4.21 for the comparative period last year. There was no dividend payment.

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Greenspan unsure over need for more US rate cuts

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, sidestepped attempts to press him on the prospects of an imminent cut in American interest rates and indicated that he was unsure whether more cuts were necessary.

Wall Street economists believed that Mr Greenspan would use this week's visit to Japan to plan a co-ordinated reduction of interest rates with Japanese authorities.

The frailty of the American recovery, which has lost President Bush support in the run-up to the November election, has brought increasing calls for further easing, despite American interest rates at the lowest for three decades.

Fed chairman fears monetary policy may not work on recession linked to asset price falls

Speaking in Tokyo yesterday, Mr Greenspan insisted that his meetings with Tasushi Miens, the governor of the Bank of Japan, and Tadamitsu Hata, the Japanese finance minister, were simply to exchange views. He said he did not know whether further monetary easing was needed.

Mr Greenspan said that if the official diagnosis of the

American economy was right, "very slow economic growth" would be expected. He explained that asset price deflation in its present form was a new phenomenon that made it very difficult to gauge how much economies still needed to adjust. All monetary policy could do, he said, was to maintain some growth by extending the period of adjustment for the debt overhang.

Mr Greenspan said the high level of private sector debt was the cause of America's sluggish climb out of recession, as consumers and companies were having to repay borrowings instead of fostering growth through increased spending.

Earlier, in a speech to Tokyo bankers, Mr Greenspan underlined the importance of building on the progress made in lowering inflation expectations, as price stability was the most important contribution central bankers could make to general economic well-being.

Wholesale prices in America rose 0.3 per cent in September, the biggest jump for five months, after an 0.1 per cent increase in August. A surge in petrol and tobacco prices accounted for most of the September gain, according to Angus Armstrong, economist at Morgan Grenfell.

Other figures showed American retail sales up 0.3 per cent in September after a flat August. August sales had previously been reported to show a 0.5 per cent drop.

Analysts were reassured by the latest economic indicators, even though they provided no sign of more than a very gradual recovery. Inflationary pressures were seen posing no threat, despite the pick-up in producer prices in September, a movement regarded as temporary. Despite a short-lived rise after release of the economic data, the dollar edged lower against the mark, ending at DM1.4635 on the view that they were not favourable enough to lift currency out of its recent trading range.

The economic picture could however reduce the Fed's perceived scope for cutting interest rates again this side of the election.



Shares in Clinton Cards, the greeting card retailer, jumped 10p to 71p as the normal season pre-tax loss for the six months to August 1 fell to £1.29 million (£2.34 million). Don Lewin, left, chairman, and Clinton Lewin, founder, expect a substantial full-year improvement

C&J Clark board searches for last-minute compromise

By JON ASHWORTH

DIRECTORS of C&J Clark, the West Country shoe manufacturer, were meeting late last night in the hope of striking a peace deal with a group of rebel shareholders.

Two sides of the Clark family have fallen out over boardroom strategy. Hopes were rising yesterday, however, that a compromise may be found ahead of tomorrow's shareholders' meeting near Street, in Somerset, where Clark has its headquarters.

The rebels, led by Lance Clark, questioned the meeting to seek the removal of Walter Dickson, the chairman, and Jim Power, a non-executive director. They may be prepared to relax their demands if Clark agrees to appoint an independent committee to assess bids from outside investors.

Clark, one of Britain's big-

gest private companies, has confirmed it is in talks with at least four potential suitors who are willing to pay about £150 million for a controlling stake. One approach is backed by Electra Investment Trust, the venture capital group.

Clark, which has sales approaching £600 million a year, is believed to have spent £1 million defending itself against the rebels. The cost will anger shareholders who have seen their income fall dramatically.

Operating profits fell from £38.6 million to £28.4 million last year. Redundancy costs and a slump in trade fueled a pre-tax loss of £3.5 million (profit £2.5 million) in the six months to end-June. Tomorrow's meeting is set to be a stormy affair. The rebels have been highly critical of Mr Dickson who was appointed

chairman just 15 months ago. They claim he has failed to implement changes suggested by McKinsey, the management consultancy, which were designed to reverse the slump in fortunes at Clark.

The Clark loyalists have, in turn, raised questions about Michael Markham, a financier, who is seeking a place on the board. Mr Markham, 40, is described in a circular to shareholders as "an experienced businessman with an outstanding record in corporate turnarounds".

In the late-1980s, Mr Markham advised British shareholders seeking a boardroom coup at Southern Resources, the Australian gold mining company. There, the rebels succeeded in removing five directors from the board, but the company has since gone into receivership.

Isosceles sells stores chain to Fitzwilton

By NEIL BENNETT

FITZWILTON, the Irish motor and food distribution group headed by Tony O'Reilly, is buying Wellworth, the Northern Ireland supermarket chain, from Isosceles for £122 million. The off-balance sheet deal will more than triple the Irish company's size.

The deal is a relief to Isosceles, which scrapped its plans to float Wellworth as an independent company last month because of poor stock market conditions. It had been estimated the flotation would raise £150 million, but the sale will still bring relief to Isosceles' balance sheet.

Fitzwilton's acquisition, however, is one of the most highly leveraged to be seen in the stock market for years. The company is buying Wellworth through an off-balance-sheet vehicle called Erne Holdings. Erne itself is capitalised at less

than £50 million. In the half-year to end-June, Fitzwilton's profits tumbled 68 per cent to £129,000. Wellworth's profits in the year to end-April were £18.6 million on sales of £236 million.

Fitzwilton is buying a 42.7 per cent stake in Erne for £18 million. The rest of the shares are being bought by an institutional consortium led by County NatWest Ventures, while Erne is borrowing more than £80 million.

To strengthen Fitzwilton's balance sheet, Mr O'Reilly is injecting £9 million in loan stock into the company.

Kevin McGoran, Fitzwilton's deputy chairman, denied the acquisition was highly geared and stressed that Erne would not have any recourse to the company. "We have found an imaginative way to make this acquisition without undue risk," he said.

Thorntons ends year on a bitter note

By NEIL BENNETT

POOR Easter egg sales and reorganisation costs cut profits by 23 per cent at Thorntons, the chocolate retailer, to £9.2 million for the year to end-June.

It blamed the drop in egg sales on uncertainty caused by the general election. Profits were also hit by a £750,000 loss from the group's 58 shops in France. The final dividend is being held at 2.4p, making 3.65p for the year.

The group's profits were also hit by exceptional reorganisation costs of £630,000 and a £440,000 fall in the value of its development properties. These were offset by a £250,000 profit on the sale of a shop in Paris.

John Thornton, the chairman, is planning a rapid expansion of the group's chain



Thorntons' expansion plan

of shops to take advantage in the fall in rents. In the next five years the group expects to open 255 shops in Britain and 100 in France, bringing its total to 800.

Times, page 22

Conran allowed to buy shares in Fitch

By OUR CITY STAFF

SIR Terence Conran has fought off an attempt to stop him buying into Fitch, an ailing design company that was regarded as a potential competitor by Euro RSCG, the French group to which Sir Terence is committed under a consultancy agreement.

A High Court judge refused to grant RSCG a temporary injunction banning Sir Terence from subscribing to shares in Fitch or otherwise being directly engaged in a rival business.

Sir Terence, 61, who founded Habitat in 1964, was chairman of the Storehouse group until he resigned in 1990. Conran Design was bought from Storehouse by RSCG in July that year. At the same time, Sir Terence's personal services company, Ter-

ence Conran Ltd, signed an exclusive three-year agreement with RSCG pledging his services to Conran Design as a consultant. It was in the light of that agreement that RSCG sought an interim court injunction pending a full trial.

Mr Justice Vinelott held that the consultancy agreement terms did not prevent Sir Terence from acquiring an interest in a competing business "as an investment". He was not a full-time employee of RSCG and was free to use his remaining time in pursuit of his own interests. On the evidence, his interest in Fitch would not conflict with his consultancy obligations. He would not be acquiring control of Fitch as he would be sharing the 60 per cent controlling interest with others.

Airlines fear financial crash landing

FROM HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN GENEVA

LEADERS and regulators of the world's civil aviation industry yesterday turned on each other with increasing bitterness as they sought to find excuses for what many see as their headlong rush towards the financial abyss.

As the scheduled carriers confronted yet another year of enormous losses, thought now to be at least \$3 billion - European airlines blamed American governments, and individual countries within Europe blamed each other. The only point of agreement at the conference in Geneva was that the industry is facing

catastrophe. Banks around the world have had enough of pouring cash into airlines which, apart from a few exceptions such as British Airways, seem incapable of turning it into profits.

Giovanni Bisignani, chairman of the Association of European Airlines, said that in the past two years the air transport industry had lost more than \$6 billion and that there was no sign of any recovery next year.

Bernard Attali, chairman of Air France, suggested that the move towards "open skies" in Europe could be a potential disaster and urged govern-

ments to rethink the timetable for its introduction. He said: "How can the air navigation and airport infrastructures at our disposal today possibly suffice to handle the additional traffic which will come out of liberalisation?"

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, who is now fighting battles in America, Australia, France and at home in Britain to try to turn British Airways into a global airline, turned on his critics around the world. "Judging from some current attitudes it seems to me that our world of air transport could be in danger of coming

to a philosophical halt and then drifting backwards."

The sense of impending doom hanging over the industry made the problems facing Dan-Air, Britain's oldest airline, appear almost inconsequential. It is becoming clear that if it, or any successor airline, is to survive, costs will have to be cut to the bone.

BA, which refused to comment on the negotiations to save Dan-Air, is anxious to avoid costly and lengthy legislative hurdles that may be put by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the European Commission in the way of any proposed deal.

UK Land loses £42m

UK LAND, the property group, lost £42.4 million in the 18 months to end-March. The losses have wiped out the group's net assets, leaving it with a negative net worth of £31.9 million. UK Land is in direct talks with its creditors banks with a view to restructuring the company under the terms of the Insolvency Act. The damage was inflicted by a £20 million exceptional

item and a £24.1 million writedown, taken as an extraordinary item, in the value of the group's investment properties and in the value of the development subsidiaries that passed into liquidation last year.

Interim results for the six months to end-September, showed a £454,000 pre-tax loss. There are no dividends for any of the periods reported.

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STOCK MARKET

Investors stay on the sidelines

THE continuing climate of gloom kept investors on the sidelines, and shares drifted lower in the absence of a much-hoped-for base rate cut, while the widely-expected megabid also failed to materialise.

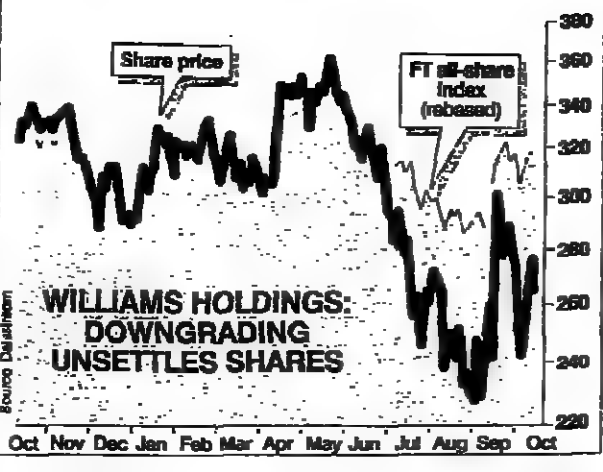
The gloom in the City was highlighted by a late announcement of 15 job losses at UBS Phillips & Drew as the securities house decided to cease making a market in more than 150 "infrequently" traded UK stocks and 50 derivatives. P&D will continue to trade 850 stocks in London.

Traders were also concerned about the OECD prediction that America's weak upturn would slow world economic recovery. A Stock Exchange computer breakdown caused confusion, as the fault meant that prices were not updated for 15 minutes. The market continued to trade despite indicative prices, although market-makers had to confirm prices on the phone.

A positive start on Wall Street and a small premium on the December FT-SE futures lifted sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index ended with a reduced deficit of 10.0 points at 2,574.7, having been down 21.8 at one stage. Volume reached 487.1 million shares.

Concern about a price probe by Offer, the industry watchdog, in the way the National Grid charges for electricity continued to unsettle the generators. PowerGen, which County NatWest expects to under-perform in the short-term, lost 13p to 267p, and National Power fell 13p to 256p. Scottish Power firmed 2 1/2p to 195p on talk of Smith New Court advising a switch from PowerGen. Worries that Offer, the telecommunications industry watchdog, may look at cellular telephones rattled Vodafone, down 5p at 342p, and BT 4p easier at 369 1/2p.

The coal industry cuts weighed heavily on those exposed to British Coal, including Charter Consolidated, off 12p at 515p, and Dobson Park, 9p lower at 47p. Meanwhile, there were market rumours that Royal Bank of Scotland may be close to concluding a deal to sell its Charterhouse merchant banking operation for as much as



WILLIAMS HOLDINGS: DOWNGRADING UNSETTLES SHARES

£250 million. Talk suggested that the supposed buyer for Charterhouse is a consortium of banks, said to be led by Smith New Court has cut its profit forecast for MFI from £72.5 million to £65 million for this year and from £87.5 million to £80 million for next year. Shares in the kitchen and furniture retailer eased 3p to 110p, against July's 115p issue price.

BHF of Germany and CCF of France. The reports were unconfirmed, but informed sources suggested that the deal

could be completed as early as next month. Elsewhere in the sector, BZW reiterated its positive stance on Standard Chartered, off 1p at 477p, and HSBC up 13p at 437p. BZW hopes they will reap benefits if China's party congress lifts

Dow inches ahead in early trading

New York — Blue chips recovered their losses and moved back into positive territory in choppy late-morning action. While some investors were consolidating this week's gains, others continued to buy oversold stocks, analysts said. In addition, some stronger-than-expected earnings reports helped to bolster sentiment.

Jim Pizzo, a market strategist at Oppenheimer and Co., said: "What's helping a little bit is the fact that you are getting better than anticipated earnings numbers."

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.51 points to 3,204.93 after rising to 3,210.88. In the broad market, advancing issues took a slim lead over declining issues in see-saw action.

Frankfurt — The market ended with small losses which partly reversed Tuesday's strong gains. The Dax index, which had jumped by more than two per cent on Tuesday, ended 6.97 points lower at 1,458.53.

A lower dollar, worries about allowances on earnings, and signs that the Bundesbank will not cut interest rates again in the near future depressed prices.

Hong Kong — Shares closed at the day's high after an afternoon buying spree that ran against the market's cautious tone ahead of talks over the new airport.

The Hang Seng index finished 50.67 points higher, at 5,806.77, with blue chips doing best out of the spree.

Singapore — Share prices closed mixed in brisk trading, with shipyards under light selling pressure and Malaysian companies traded over the counter hogging the active list, brokers said.

The Straits Times industrial index edged up 0.97 point to 1,333.85 on volume of 47.25 shares against 41.52 million on Tuesday. Rises and falls were even at 102. (Reuters)

Table with multiple columns showing stock prices and changes for various companies and indices. Includes sections for 'WORLD MARKETS' and 'MAJOR CHANGES'.

Table titled 'BRITISH FUNDS' showing performance of various funds. Columns include fund name, price, and change.

Table titled 'RECENT ISSUES' showing details of recent stock issues. Columns include company name, issue size, and price.

Table titled 'RIGHTS ISSUES' showing details of rights issues. Columns include company name, issue size, and price.

Table titled 'MAJOR CHANGES' showing significant price movements for various stocks.



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Stuck in the pits of recession

Real economics rarely seem to intrude into that world of statistical relationships on which the Chancellor's new economic policy, like his old one, will be based. Even in this rarified atmosphere, however, the pit closure programme will surely be noticed. To conclude that this ministerial decision will prolong the recession is only a slight exaggeration. Government statisticians estimate the fall in coal output will reduce industrial production by 1.2 per cent, more noticeable because it will be concentrated over a few months. That is not the end of it. The cost to confidence of tidying up British Coal all at once for privatisation will be disproportionately high. The secondary impact on suppliers, especially in the North, will be scarcely less depressing, long before any effects stemming from unemployment which will be cushioned by redundancy pay. The economics of the railways will be severely upset and short-term public spending and borrowing will be given an unwelcome boost.

Attempting to relate such real events to Treasury economic policy underscores its limitations. A cut in interest rates, though welcome on other grounds, would hardly compensate. Nor would an offsetting cut in other government spending, though logical under the Chancellor's latest thinking, seem appropriate. The idea of the economy as a sort of resilient sponge, which obligingly contracts and expands according to Treasury adjustments of surrounding water pressure, is not tenable after such a long recession. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, admitted as much yesterday, despairing of what more American monetary policy could do about a recession linked to lower asset prices.

Too often, these shocks are themselves the product of government actions or policies formulated without much attempt to look through their second-round effects on the real economy. Much greater emphasis should be placed on the real economy as the centre of economic policy. Macroeconomic regulators are essential but accelerators and brakes are not much use if the engine is not working.

Singing Canary

Canary Wharf's administrators have known for some time that the government was reconsidering the relocation of 2,000 civil servants to Docklands and the extension of the Jubilee Line, but still persisted, along with Canary Wharf's banks, in making their contribution to Jubilee conditional on the civil servants' move. With government expected to decide on both this week, the administrators, Ernst & Young, have made one last desperate pitch. They seem prepared to abandon linkage and have asked the prime minister to clarify. E & Y says it may have tenants interested in leasing more than one million sq ft of Canary Wharf and ten possible buyers. Who are these tenants and buyers? Whitehall was talking about leasing 900,000 sq ft and only a couple of prospective purchasers have emerged so far. Perhaps the administrators have put their faith in the government as their saviour.

After criticising Olympia & York, Canary Wharf's developer, for offering incentives to entice enough tenants to the scheme to give it momentum, the banks and administrators are now offering their own sweeteners — £100 million from the sale of a building — in return for Jubilee and the government's lease. Might they next offer to take over empty government office space? Both banks and administrators underestimated the travails of property management. If the government fails to ride to the rescue, the banks should instal property developers with a solid track record, to restore the scheme's credibility and reassure existing tenants who have been brave enough to stay.

Recalling a week when the bottom fell out of the stock market world

Jon Ashworth looks back to those dark days of October 1987 when stock exchanges around the world almost reached meltdown

Five years ago today, something very strange was happening far out over the north Atlantic. In London, October 15, 1987 dawned with all the fair and energy that the eighties had come to symbolise. Red Porsches and mobile telephones, striped braces and Veuve Clicquot. The stock market was king, and dealers were having the time of their lives.

Yet out there, somewhere beyond the Bay of Biscay, an intense depression was whirling its way towards the coast of England. Nobody realised it at the time, but the face of the City was about to change forever. Soon, newspaper columns would be ringing with a new set of catchwords: the 1987 hurricane, the October crash, Black Monday. The intense depression was here to stay.

Five years ago, in the early hours of Friday, October 16, the worst storms in living memory swept across southern England. Eighteen people died and hundreds were injured as winds gusting up to 120 mph roared in from the Atlantic, carving a £300 million trail of devastation from Cornwall to East Anglia.

Houses and hotels collapsed and ships were wrecked. Fallen trees littered the roads, and power supplies and telephone connections were cut. Cars lay crushed and abandoned. Railway lines were blocked by trees and fallen debris.

Few dealers and stockbrokers made it to work that Friday, and those who did found little business waiting for them. British Rail estimated that more than 350,000 of the 400,000 daily commuters in the South East region failed to travel. Most City workers who made it to their desks were sent home early.

The cost to British industry and finance was estimated to top £1 billion. The banking system was unable to process £100 billion in cheques. The Stock Exchange suspended its screen-based share quotation system for three hours at an estimated cost of £375 million in lost deals. Thousands of shops, offices and factories stayed closed.

The only hint of the financial storm waiting to break were small headlines in Saturday's newspapers.

In *The Times*, under a photograph of a Sealink ferry beached near Folkestone Harbour, was an innocuous headline: "Wall St suffers worst fall". Wall Street had fallen a record 108 points in the busiest trading session ever recorded on the New York stock market. "Investors were reported selling stocks by the fistful while waves of computer programmes hitting sell levels accelerated the decline. 'It was like living history, like nobody has seen before,' said a trader."

The wave of tension that had built



Monday morning blues: the storm of the previous week turned its fury on to City's dealing rooms

up since the night of the hurricane finally broke on Monday morning, sending share prices falling so steeply that dealers and market makers were powerless to act. Shortly after 4pm, the FT-SE 100 index hit its low point for the day, down 301.1 points, wiping more than £63 billion of share values before rallying slightly to close 249.6 points down.

In New York, the Dow Jones average fell 508 points to 1,738.41, a decline of 22.6 per cent. Losses on Wall Street were almost double the 13 per cent drop seen in the worst day of the 1929 stock market crash. Computer trades triggered panic selling. The dollar plunged on foreign exchanges.

John Phelan, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, said: "It was the nearest thing to a meltdown I've ever likely to see. If it wasn't a meltdown it was certainly as hot as I want it to be."

In London, Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange and architect of the financial revolution which had transformed the markets a year earlier, watched the events of the day with a mixture of horror and fascination. "I do remember saying at the time that the physical storm was some sort of premonition," Sir Nicholas, now

chairman of TSB, said, thinking back to the events of October 1987. "I recall making my way through the London streets on Friday. They were strewn with branches and leaves. I've never seen anything like it in my life. Hyde Park was like a battlefield. The scenes of devastation across Sussex and Kent were quite incredible."

He was one of the few people who made it to the Stock Exchange on the morning after the storm. "I think I took the Tube. I made it in on Friday and was very lucky. Monday's chaos, in turn, put his vision for the financial markets brought in by Big Bang to the ultimate test. He was not disappointed. 'The systems held up very well.'"

By mid-morning on Monday, Nick Briggs, then head of UK equities at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, had largely given up trying to guess where the market might settle. "On Friday we were in pitch darkness or working on reserve generators and candles," Mr Briggs, now deputy chairman of corporate banking at BZW, recalls. "We were very short of staff; about a fifth of the market makers were there, and we had the whole of the weekend to build up Monday. It might have been better if

it had not been so truncated. There would have been less pent-up selling pressure." The falls, when they came, were unbelievable. "On the screens, prices were changing before your eyes. I can still remember the trauma of watching it happen."

Ian Stevenson, then at Wood Mackenzie, remembers driving to work the morning after the hurricane. "During the night one sensed this was something very unusual," Mr Stevenson, now at Smith New Court, says. "Next to the Old Bailey there was a BMW with a wheel clamp and a tree on top. That day was almost like a bucket of cold water."

"On Friday night, we had news of very bad balance of trade figures from America. On Monday, the door just opened up and prices fell. Institutions were coming on the line and saying, 'Show me any bid for any stock.'"

Reputations were made and tarnished. Former dealers at County NatWest still recall how Brian Winterlood, then head of market making, took Black Monday in his stride. Laurence Marsh, who provides research for market makers at Winterlood Securities, says: "He spent the whole day walking up and down the aisles, calming everyone and keeping an eye on things." A

senior dealer at James Capel says: "The most memorable bit was finding Wall Street was down 508 points. That was when it became really scary."

Share prices tumbled around the world. Hong Kong saw its biggest ever one-day fall with the Hang Seng index diving 420.8 points. The Australian stock market collapsed, wiping A\$10 billion off share values, and the Paris bourse lost 9 per cent of its value in the sharpest falls seen in six years.

Rumours of fortunes made and lost swept the market. One London investor was reputed to have spent £1,000 on Footsie put options — gambling that the stock market would fall — and reaped about £230,000 from the chaos.

A trainee accountant gambled the other way and was sued by NatWest for more than £1 million when the markets plummeted. He was earning £12,000 a year at the time and had not understood the danger he was in writing options. Three NatWest employees were sacked. The bank came to an arrangement with the unfortunate investor.

On both sides of the Atlantic the falls were greeted as the end of an era. On Wall Street, the bull market had been raging for more than five years and in Britain shares had been rising, more or less, since 1975.

The crash not only marked the end of the bull market but brought a new volatility to share trading. In 1987, a fall of 50 points on a day would have been greeted with horror. Today, dealers hardly bat an eyelid.

The days following Black Monday gave the City a taste of what was to come. By close of trade on Tuesday, the FT-SE 100 index had fallen 500 points. On Wednesday, the market bounced back 142 points, and on Thursday fell 110 points. On Friday it was down 38 points, and on Monday was down 111 points.

The stock market hit its low point on November 9 when, according to Datastream, the FT-SE closed at 1565.2. The market hit a post-crash high of 2,737.8 on May 11 1992. At the end of Black Monday, the stock market was valued at £382.8 billion. Today, it is worth £543 billion.

Times may have changed for the City, but at least the sense of humour remains. One group of hardy City professionals plans to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the crash on Monday evening with a dinner at a suitable venue. The occasion has been masterminded by Rupert Ashe of Focus Communications, a City consultancy, whose memory of the day sums up the heady excesses of the eighties.

"On Monday morning, I was on the line to a futures commodity broker trying to extract myself from an extremely painful futures position," Mr Ashe says. He will be joined on Monday evening by Charles Martin, of Macfarlanes, the law firm, Adam Speak, of Samuel Montagu, and Tim Mayo, of James Capel, among others. "By lunchtime, I was heavily out of pocket but had sold Wall Street, and by six o'clock, I had just about broken even. It was the longest day of my life."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hammer falls at Barton Abbey

THE auctioneer's hammer will be falling in the grounds of yet another country house on Tuesday, but for once it has nothing to do with losses at Lloyd's. The sale, by Phillips, will take place at Barton Abbey, Oxfordshire, a 16th century mansion owned by Robin Fleming, chairman of Robert Fleming, the merchant bank and grandson of the bank's founder. Since the death of his mother last year, the house has been empty. Fleming, who lives in the former farm manager's house on the estate admits that he loves the Abbey, but at 60 he feels he is "too old" to move back into the house where he grew up. Instead, he is selling some of its surplus contents to permit extensive refurbishment, and hopes his son Philip, 27, and a property developer, will one day take up residence. "It is much better placed for young people," says Fleming. The sale is classified by Phillips as small and is expected to raise about £100,000. Fleming will attend, but says there is nothing in it he will particularly miss — including the still life by Mark Gertler which, according to Phillips is the star attraction, and could fetch £12,000.

Following father

INSISTING that his chosen career path was coincidence rather than nepotism, Stephen Alexander, 36, is progressing well within the Allied-Lyons group. Alexander, who becomes managing



"If we were making anything it would be cheaper"

still holds, and tirelessly raises money for trusts that support the Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne.

The A team

DRAWING up an invitation list is always fraught with peril and Wimpey, the battered building firm, seems to have run into a few difficulties in deciding who from the large fraternity of construction analysts it should invite on its ongoing tour of minerals operations. The company has opted for one representative from each of eight broking firms, flying them to Ireland, Czechoslovakia and the east coast of America, and has thereby overlooked the remaining 40 or so that regularly attend its analysts' presentations. Wimpey, which last month announced a £7 million interim loss, can reasonably argue that the economic climate does not warrant a worldwide jaunt at shareholders' expense. It insists that those who missed out will learn all at a presentation next Tuesday at the company's Hammesmith headquarters and that, meanwhile, nothing price-sensitive will be released. Who has made the A list is, for the moment, a secret.

CITY wits, tired of hearing of the demise of one company after another have devised a sign-of-the-times joke, using, we hasten to add, one of the most financially sound businesses in existence. It goes thus: "Heard the latest about Pedigree Petfoods? It has just had to call in the retrievers."

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Performance of a thoroughbred?

From Mr Alan Routs

Sir, We are a long established very specialised, profitable company making quality control instruments for paint and allied coatings manufacturers and users; nearly 75 per cent of our sales are exports.

We have not felt the effects of recession, sales are nearly 20 per cent above last year and turnover this year will be 80 per cent higher than five years ago with compounded price increases of less than 20 per cent in the same period. Our total bad debts have been less than £4,000 in the last 5 years.

Our bankers, Lloyds, have recently told us that not only could they not increase our borrowing facility but they would not renew our existing arrangements at the end of October. Through an ECGD-

type scheme we have been able to obtain 90 per cent finance against export invoices; our bank now tells us that we can no longer do this because one of their customers using a similar scheme recently defrauded the bank using false export documents. Perhaps they will soon withdraw all cheque books from their customers for similar reasons.

We paid nearly £48,000 last year in interest and bank charges, were regarded by the local area manager as an excellent customer and have been forced into the inconvenience of changing bank.

Yours faithfully,
A. ROUTS,
Managing Director,
Shoen Instruments Ltd,
8 Waldegrave Road,
Teddington, Middlesex.

VAT collection

From Mr Jonathan Sumption

Sir, Thank you for publishing Mr Gray's letter (Oct 13). I run a business which has encountered the same VAT problem. My last quarter's VAT bill was £64,000. Of this, I had collected about £30,000 of VAT from my customers. The remaining £34,000 had to be borrowed from the bank at great cost.

I happened to be eight days late making this payment, my penalty was £6,400 yet I have to collect this amount at no cost to the revenue; so much for encouraging enterprise. As Mr Gray suggests, I wonder if European partners suffer such draconian penalties.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SUMPTION,
Foxmoor Nurseries,
Wellingborough,
Somerset.

Widening the debate on reform of occupational pension schemes

From Mr Roger M Westwood

Sir, Sean Hand's letter of September 29 "Removing occupational pensions from the control of employers" offers an interesting development of David Blake's ideas. We hope that he will put his views to Professor Goode's committee and that they will not be rejected without first being rigorously examined.

May we offer a few thoughts of our own on some of the issues which Mr Hand raises?

In the appalling aftermath of Maxwell, it might be comforting to hold the belief that the root of all pensions investment evil lies in the framework of trust law. The truth, sadly, is that individuals commit fraud and others, by being insufficiently vigilant, allow them to do so. Other financial institutions, and therefore indirectly their investors, (for example banks and insurance companies) are defrauded of sub-

stantial sums every year, but commentators (correctly) do not lay the blame on company law or the law of theft.

Second, the idea of unitising final salary pension schemes is another notion of great appeal because it is apparently simple but, as Mr Hand knows, it requires rather more column centimetres to explain what it means in practice than it does to propose. Even a brief explanation would demonstrate that unitisation means the introduction of a one-way financial option against the scheme (any personal pension provider would, rightly, consider it outrageous to be required that they build such an option into their product).

This would destabilise the finances of final salary schemes. As in any case of financial instability, some members might expect to profit handsomely but many would be losers. Third, after

much debate, we now have a position whereby employers cannot write into contracts of employment the requirement that employees join their scheme. Mr Hand is a lawyer of liberal persuasion and we expect that he views this as positive.

We are, however, tempted to think, judging by his remarks on direction of employers' contributions into employees' pension schemes, that he harbours a wish to have the law changed again. This time, contracts of employment would have to include a provision that employers have to prop up their employees' savings plans. Is this not inconsistent and liberal?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER M WESTWOOD,
(President),
The Society of Pension Consultants (SPC),
Ludgate House,
Ludgate Circus, EC4.

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FUTURES PAGER

Life begins at Forte under a new chairman

HARDLY a day has gone by since the thirties without some mention of Lord Forte of Ripley, doyen of Britain's hotel and catering trade. But after 60 years in the business, he has decided to call it a day and step down as chairman of Forte, Britain's largest hotel and catering group.

Born in 1908 in Montefiore, south of Rome, Italy, where his family had lived for generations, he was taken to Scotland at the age of 5 by his father, Rocco, who had opened a small café there.

After a spell in Rome learning Italian, he started in one of his father's cafés, and at the age of 26, launched the Meadow Milk Bar on Upper Regent Street. Within five years, he had nine milk bars in London as well as a central catering business to supply them. The foundations of the Forte empire were in place.

By the start of the war, newspapers were calling him "the Milk Bar King". After Italy entered the war in 1940 he was briefly interned on the Isle of Man as an enemy alien. By the early fifties he was buying sites near Piccadilly, including the Criterion, and bought the Café Royal in 1954. In 1955, his company was awarded the first cater-

Lord Forte failed to win the Savoy but did create the world's largest chain

ing concession at London's Heathrow airport.

He opened his first hotel, The Waldorf, in 1958. The following year, Forte was one of the first operators of a service area on the new M1 motorway.

By 1970, his company had gone public and merged with the Trust Houses hotel chain. The new group, Trusthouse Forte, became the largest hotel, catering and leisure group in the world.

One of the biggest deals in British hotel history came in 1978 when the group bought 35 Strand hotels from J Lyons for £27.6 million. The deal added the Cumberland Hotel at Marble Arch, the Strand Palace, and no less than 5,500 hotel rooms to its British network.

Lord Forte continued to expand but in 1981 failed in a bid to take control of the Savoy Group of hotels. He was criticised as "not at all

suitable to run hotels of the calibre of the Savoy".

An uneasy relationship with the Savoy persists to this day. Forte holds 67 per cent of the Savoy equity and about 42 per cent of the votes. His son, Rocco, and Donald Main, THF's finance director, have been given seats on the Savoy board.

Despite his reputation for toughness, Lord Forte, who stands 5ft 4½ ins in his bare feet, is not without a sense of humour. When he was awarded his knighthood in 1970 he described himself as the "shortest knight of the year". He was created a life peer in 1982.

Lord Forte has been a regular star of newspaper columns over the past 40 years. In a 1959 article, he was described as "a small, dark, large-nosed, shrewd and wealthy man of fifty" who ran far and away the biggest privately owned catering business in England. His company owned everything from milk bars and City pubs to grill-rooms. As president of Forte, a title he inherits from Lord Thorneycroft, Lord Forte is unlikely to remain in the shadows.

JON ASHWORTH



Leaving the chair: Lord Forte is stepping down but becomes president of THF

Japanese surplus surges to record

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus grew to record levels for September and in the first half because the sluggish economy lowered demand for imports, a trend that will continue unless there is a strong recovery, economists said.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) said Japan's unadjusted customs-cleared trade surplus surged to \$52.5 billion in the six months to end-September from \$39.7 billion in the same period a year ago. In September alone, it rose to \$12.07 billion from \$9.66 billion a year earlier.

Taisuke Tanaka, chief economist at ABN Amro Bank, said: "I find no evidence of change in the growth trend in Japan's trade surplus."

He and other economists said the slow Japanese economic recovery has funnelled manufacturers' energy to exports, which made the trade surplus even bigger.

Exports in April-September rose 9.9 per cent in dollar terms, while imports rose only 2 per cent.

The MoF official blamed the recent increase in Japan's exports on strong demand for Japanese products overseas, not on Japanese manufactur-

ers' efforts to boost exports. He declined to say whether the surplus would continue to rise, but no private economists expect a decline in the near future.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development forecasts growth in gross domestic product at 1.8 per cent in 1992, down from 4.4 per cent last year.

Cuts in European interest rates also worked unfavourably for curbing the surplus, economists said and they have called on the government to take more aggressive measures to stimulate the economy.

"It is very fortunate for Japan that the US is in the middle of a presidential election and Europe is in a big conflict over the European Monetary System," said a Japanese city bank economist. "But they will get on our back again when they have time to look at our huge surplus."

The only hope for the Japanese government in curbing the surplus is the higher yen, which might damage Japan's export price competitiveness but this is unlikely to happen for some time because of the currency's recent firmness.

Better deal for the working mother

By PATRICIA TEHAN

EMPLOYERS are increasingly positive in their attitude to women attempting to stay in work while their children are young. However, according to the report, Beyond the Career Break, published by the Institute of Manpower Studies, women returning to work are much less sure about their future career opportunities and feel their careers have to take a back seat for a while.

They believe their managers see them as "less promotable once they have become mothers", according to the study.

The institute interviewed 785 women in professional and managerial jobs who returned to work for the same employer after having a child. The research covered 45 employers, mainly large firms, across a variety of sectors.

Three-quarters of the women still had a pre-school child. 70 per cent were in their thirties, choosing to have their baby at an average age of 30 when they were already established in their careers.

The report said: "This means they were looking after young children in the years when, for men at least, crucial career moves are made or missed."

Employers are getting better at managing maternity leave and return to work, but the survey found there is still room for improvement. The institute said: "The women felt that their employers did expect them to return. They were less satisfied with the degree of

contact during the break, updating on return and consultation about the job to which they would return."

Only 9 per cent returned to a job at a lower level. Some were able to make career progress. Since their break a third of the women had been promoted. Of those who had taken more than one break, 60 per cent had been promoted since their first break. However, the survey found the women were not very confident about their future career prospects.

Employers take the blame for the women who suffered a lack of confidence on their return. The institute said: "Employers have an important role here in nurturing career ambition among women returners, and in talking to individual women about career plans."

Part-time workers have progressed less in their careers since taking maternity leave and felt less certain about future career prospects. However, they also suffered less stress and about 58 per cent said they would work part-time if they had the choice.

Childcare continues to be a problem. Jill Yeates, co-author of the report, said: "Employers should realise that women never permanently solve childcare problems, and that organising home and work becomes harder with each child." The average childcare bill for those working full-time was £85 per week.

Medeva to purchase Armstrong for \$54m

By MARTIN BARROW

MEDEVA, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals group, is acquiring its first quoted company, paying \$54 million for Armstrong Pharmaceuticals in America.

Armstrong specialises in the production of anti-asthma drug delivery systems and aims to market a metered dose inhaler version of albuterol, a generic equivalent of Ventolin, which is being considered by the American Food and Drug Administration.

Armstrong earned pre-tax profits of \$1.8 million in the year to September 28, on sales of \$13.9 million. Net assets at the end of September were \$5 million. The company's shareholders will meet to consider the deal in December, but Medeva said it already has the

backing of directors speaking for 40 per cent of the shares. Medeva expects to complete the takeover in January 1993.

Separately, Medeva is withdrawing from the UK distribution of nearly all its basic generic products. Medeva's Evans-Kerfoot subsidiary will sell existing stocks of the product range to Norton Healthcare for about £11.5 million. Norton is also buying Medeva's production site at Horsham, Sussex, for £12 million and taking over manufacturing and premises at Bradford, Yorkshire.

Bernard Taylor, chairman of Medeva, said withdrawal from marketing and distributing basic generic drugs completes the refocusing of the Evans-Kerfoot business.

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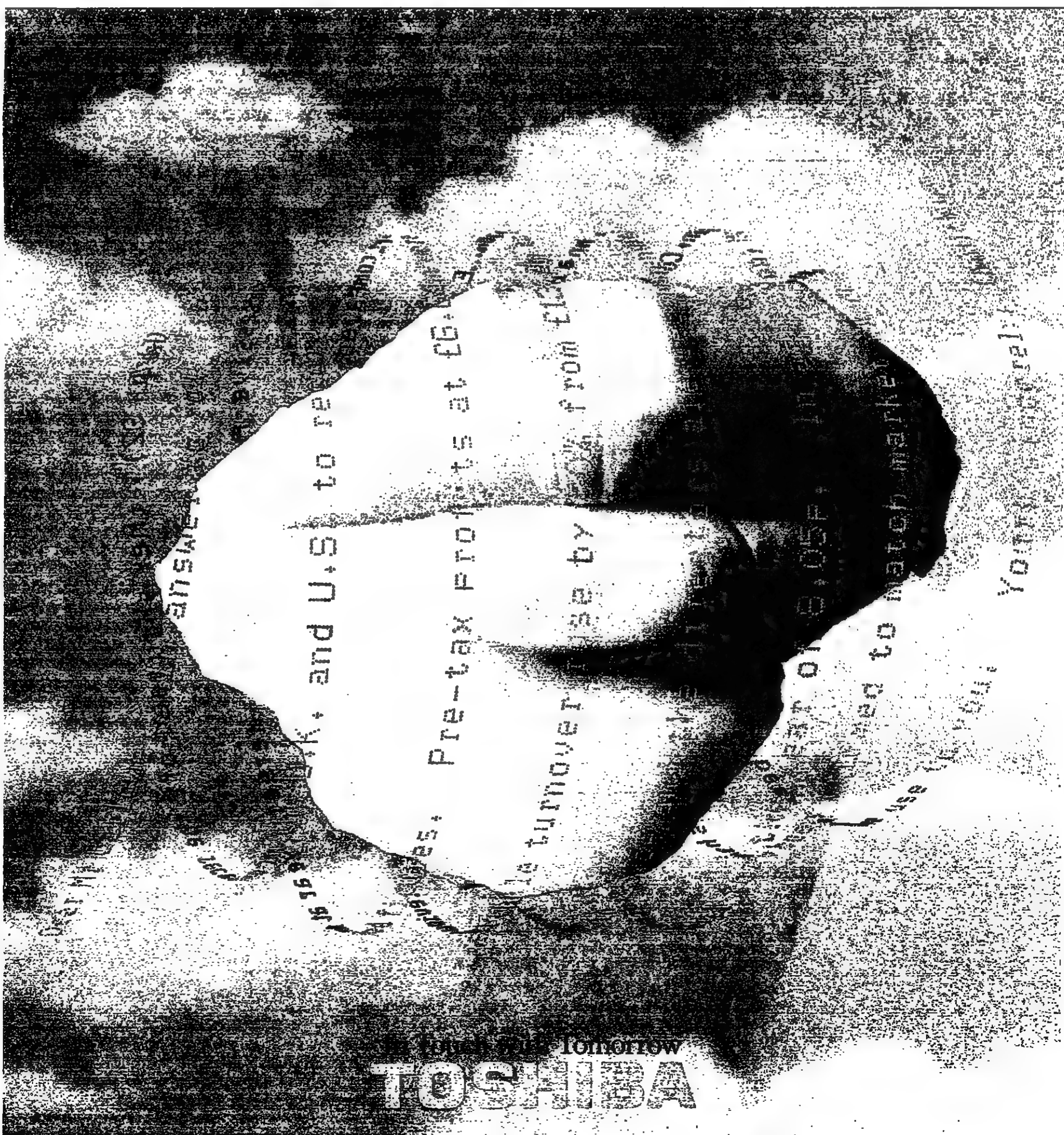
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For investments of £10,000 or more	10.00	9.00	7.00	7.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
RECURRING SAVINGS		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
MONTHLY INCOME SAVINGS		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
TWO-YEAR SAVINGS		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
REGULAR SAVINGS		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
SHARE ACCOUNTS £1 min		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
OVERSEAS RESIDENTS AND OVERSEAS ACCOUNT		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.00	7.00	5.00	5.00
TERRA £1 min		GRAND	NET	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.50	8.50	6.50	6.50
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.00	6.00	6.00
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.50	7.50	5.50	5.50
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moving" Mr Foster said.

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Waltz
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MUSIC page 30
So farewell then, Nigel?
Kennedy takes his "last"
London concerto bow in
idiosyncratic fashion

ARTS

THEATRE page 31
Welcome to Wobegon:
Garrison Keillor goes
back to his roots
in Minnesota



NEW FILMS: Geoff Brown reviews the Australian smash hit, *Strictly Ballroom*, and David Robinson talks to its star

Waltzing off with the prizes

CINEMA

Fifteen years or so ago, Australian cinema was riding high. Everyone picked at Hanging Rock, raced with Mad Max, or rode with the Man From Snowy River. Between 1970 and 1985, the Australian industry made nearly 400 films—more than in its entire previous history. The bubble burst, as bubbles always do: funding became scarcer, while directors lost their way, marked time, or moved over to Hollywood.

Now a second creative revival is happening in the Antipodes. Jane Campion's huge talent has been spotted in New Zealand; then Jocelyn Moorhouse arrived with *Proof*. Last week, Mark Joffe's diverting *Spotswood* opened in London. This week, take your partners for *Strictly Ballroom*, the Australian film that dances all others off the screen.

Baz Luhrmann's debut feature first won hearts at this year's Cannes festival with Australian good cheer, in a story of fairy-tale simplicity, with an ingratiating cast and enough swirling skirts, glittering jackets and stomping Cuban heels to waken the dead.

The film began life in 1986 as a theatre workshop piece during Luhrmann's student days. Developed into a full-length play, it toured Australia and even Czechoslovakia, where audiences discerned a political metaphor in the hero's struggles to be his own man.

Scott Hastings, dashing played by Paul Mercurio, cannot rest content with the usual dance steps. He longs to perform his own choreography, which the rules of the all-powerful Australian Ballroom Dance Federation forbid.

Bereft of his usual partner, he grudgingly teams with Tara Morice, an archetypal ugly duckling (glasses, poor skin) who shares his passion and, once on the dance floor, gradually blossoms into a swan. Ahead lie heartbreak, skull-duggery, tears, fate, and, of course, an inevitable happy ending. There is no need to weigh down *Strictly Ballroom* with heavy political significance. It delights with its vigour, zany comedy and disarming ability to gild show business clichés with loving burlesque.

For British audiences, the comedy and characterisations may occasionally be pushed too hard. Bill Hunter's Federation president, with blond cream puff hair, preens and minces—the conventional gay stereotype; other actors get carried away with the shouts and grimaces.



Together against the world: Tara Morice and Paul Mercurio in Baz Luhrmann's zany and disarming *Strictly Ballroom*

But Luhrmann's sweeping camera, the garish colour and forthright emotions all combine to intoxicate. "A life lived in fear," the film's motto runs, "is a life half lived." *Strictly Ballroom* should be equally embraced with abandon.

Thunderheart contains no hidden metaphors: unusually for an American film, Michael Apted's thriller makes its stance on politics and society visible to all, without straying far from its chosen genre. Before the opening credits are done, an Indian on a South Dakota reservation, shot in the back, falls dead into water in slow-motion. This is the case that must be solved by Val Kilmer's FBI agent, one-quarter Native American himself.

The film then pursues two parallel investigations: one into the facts of the case, the other into Kilmer's heritage and spiritual awakening. As the net closes on the true culprit, Kilmer's FBI teammate Sam Shepard puts it bluntly: "He's going native on us."

Apted came to this project fresh from a documentary, *Incident at*

***Strictly Ballroom* PG (Odeon W.E., Renoir)
Thunderheart 15 (MGM Haymarket)
Wuthering Heights U (Empire 2)**

Oglala, which investigated the case of Leonard Peltier, a Native American Sioux listed in Amnesty International's books as the only political prisoner in America. Though the present story is a work of fiction, and plunges at times into awkward dream imagery, it still keeps close touch with documentary reality.

Roger Deakins's travelling camera feasts on the magnificent Badlands scenery; but the beauty must be set against impoverished lives, poisoned water and squalid shacks.

Native American players, crafts and customs give a special edge to the drama. Chief Ted Thin Elk, from the Dakota Rosebud Reservation, conveys just the right frisson as

the medicine man who helps Kilmer discover his hidden soul. Kilmer himself seems vacuous; Shepard is teasingly dry and laconic. After the impersonal but craftsmanlike *Class Action*, it is good to see Apted flexing his muscles.

Something must be wrong with any adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* when it qualifies for a U certificate. Emily Brontë's novel invites the film-maker to push close to the edge, to probe the darkest recesses of obsessive love and sexual passion. But Peter Kosminsky's version of Heathcliff and Cathy's blighted romance—the first fruit of Paramount's British production programme—prefers dull reverence.

The Gothic atmosphere is plentiful and boringly orthodox: so many howling winds, so many shots of

the gloomy pile on the barren Yorkshire moor. Commendably, Anne Devlin's script attempts the whole narrative (Goldwyn's 1939 version dispensed entirely with the second half), but she cannot stop the plot's unbecoming gallop.

The doomed pair themselves prove a mixed blessing. Ralph Fiennes's Heathcliff looks admirably unsavoury, though his pained expressions grow monotonous with time, as though he had permanent indigestion. With Juliette Binoche, heroine of *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*, you hear the voice coach at work: she is best when silent. Together, they strike an occasional spark, but nowhere near enough to ignite the whole film.

At the National Film Theatre, the eighth Jewish Film Festival (October 14-28) offers new and old, from a recently discovered Austrian silent, the poignant *City Without Jews*, to items from Mexico, Russia and Canada. Tonight, *Freud Leaving Home* is a confident comedy-drama from Suzanne Bier, a Dane working in Sweden.

Head in air and feet on ground

■ Playing the leading role in *Strictly Ballroom* came naturally to choreographer Paul Mercurio, although injury almost denied him the opportunity

Along with the rest of the *Strictly Ballroom* gang, Paul Mercurio, the dancer star of the film, finds the effects of its runaway success "bewildering". The Australian release alone has already grossed more than \$410 million (£4.2 million), outpacing even *Lethal Weapon II*. All this has turned the quiet-spoken Mercurio into a hot property, with offers for films and stage musicals in London and on Broadway, and seductive faces from agents who six months ago did not want to know him.

Paul Mercurio is his real name, though a dancer could hardly invent a better one. His grandfather was Sicilian, from Palermo. Paul's parents separated when he was small, and he was raised by his mother in Perth. His future was decided "at the ripe old age of nine when I watched an Elvis Presley film. Elvis was singing and dancing and being pretty cool and groovy; and when the film finished I turned to my Mum and said, 'Mum, can I dance?'"

After three years in a small suburban dance school he rebelled against the discipline. "It didn't connect with me any longer. I liked the element of being free in dancing."

He enrolled with his sister and two brothers in a school in Fremantle which had a strong all-round performing arts course. At 16 he won a scholarship to study with the West Australian Ballet, then was accepted by the Australian Ballet School. He left after the first year. "Classical schools try to fit you into a box rather than allow your individuality to come out."

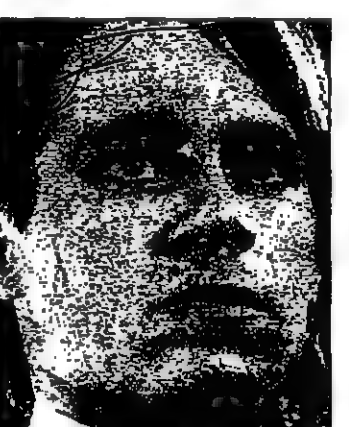
At 19 he found his ideal niche with the Sydney Dance Company. "Their choreographer Graeme Murphy relies on individuals. He draws his inspiration from the dancer's own individual quality." World tours as a principal dancer with the company brought him to Covent Garden in a joint season with the Australian Ballet.

Then, after a backpack tour of Europe, looking at other companies, and marriage to a fellow-dancer, Andrea Toy, he decided "that I was going choreograph, live in Australia and raise a family". Two works for the Sydney Dance Company—*Dancing With I* and *Waiting*—won good reviews and a commission to do a new work every year for the company.

Plans to branch out on his own were interrupted by *Strictly Ballroom*. "Baz Luhrmann saw me on stage and asked me if I would choreograph the film. A year later he asked me if I would read for a part. And a year after that he rang to say he had the money, and would I do another reading? Finally he gave me the lead role."

"Just before we started shooting I sprained my ankle very badly. I should have been on crutches for six weeks; but we had only 12 days between the accident and filming. So I had a lot of osteopathic treatment, positive thought and potato poultices, and did the role."

After the film he went back to the Sydney Dance Company; but in June this year launched his own company ACE (Australian Choreographic Ensemble), for which he created a new work, *Contact*. The first season was a sell-out. "The film



Paul Mercurio: he trained and toured as a ballet dancer

had helped a lot, and brought in a completely new audience."

He is not awed by sudden success. "It's hard not to be attracted by being treated like a celebrity—nice hotels and limos and things—but you mustn't believe it. Once I'm back in Australia I live out in the suburbs with dogs in the back yard and the two kids to look after and feed. And my relationship with Andrea. And I like to do a bit of home brewing on the side as a hobby. And I've got a dance company to run and people to employ. So I've got other things in my life to keep me down to earth."

DAVID ROBINSON

A box of bangers with the odd squib

■ A guide to likely highlights of this year's London Film Festival, for which postal booking opens on Saturday

You now have three options for November 5: go to that bonfire party, sit at home with carpalitis and comfort the cat, or see the new Kenneth Branagh movie. If you choose the latter, Peter's Friends, you may not get many cinematic fireworks: this British edition of *The Big Chill*, in which graduate chums unite after ten years to bare souls and dispense one-liners, is tied down by its shallow script. But at least you will have helped launch the 36th London Film Festival.

From November 5 until November 22, celluloid madness descends on the capital. Festival director Sheila Whitaker has managed to gather a good proportion of the best new films from Europe, Asia, Africa, both Americas, and even beleaguered Britain. One film is 30 seconds long—Hate B, an Estonian animation; another, Edgar Reitz's sequel to *Heimat*, lasts 26 hours over two weekends.

How do you choose among some 220 programmes? You can plump for the art-house delicacies already destined for British distribution: such as Eric Rohmer's *A Winter's Tale* (Nov 12), or Victor Erice's spellbinding *The Quince Tree Sun* (Nov 8), or Alain Corneau's *Tous les Matins du monde* (Nov 19), where the Depardieu (father and son) resurrect the life of Marin Marais, court composer for Louis XIV. You can get a head start on Barry Norman and see the better American product, such as Quentin Tarantino's thriller about thieves falling out, *Reservoir Dogs* (Nov 19), or Alan Rudolph's *Equinox* (Nov 13), an extravagant tale of identical twins.

Among the Asian contingent, all



Graduate chums: Hugh Laurie (left), Kenneth Branagh and Stephen Fry in *Peter's Friends*

eyes will be on Zhang Yimou's *The Story of Qiu Ju* (Nov 17), a contemporary story from the great visual stylist of *Raise the Red Lantern*. But there are other films no connoisseur should miss. Takeshi Kitano's *A Scene at the Sea* (Nov 11) is an enchanting piece. Kitano, clearly a born filmmaker, uses repetitive action and travelling shots to create a hypnotic, lyrical hymn to human behaviour and all its quirks.

Clara Law's *Autumn Moon* (Nov 7) is another fetching Asian film that lets characters and landscapes breathe. A Japanese tourist, idling in Hong Kong, pursues a tentative friendship with a Chinese teenager soon to emigrate to Canada. Law's cool, pale blue images drape a bittersweet probe into young love, cross-cultural conflicts, and a lifestyle doomed to change with the Chinese takeover.

ARTS BRIEFING

For other quiet pleasures, try Xavier Beauvois' *Nord* (Nov 19). It comes as a surprise to find a new French director telling a story without frills. He also proves no mean actor, playing a restless 18-year-old with a subtlety most modern screen rebels lack.

Britain fields 20 features, mostly shaped for television, without which our industry would scarcely exist. Vadim Jean and Gary Sinyor's kosher comedy *Leon the Pig Farmer* (Nov 15) has gusto in plenty, though Steve Gough's *Elenya* (Nov 14), a sensitive wartime reminiscence about a Welsh girl's encounter with a wounded

German airman, is the sturdiest achievement.

Finally, do not forget the archive restorations. Rudolph Valentino casts his spell in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (Nov 20 and 21), presented with a new Carl Davis score. Curio collectors should be in paradise with Mikhail Chaburov's *The Fall of Berlin* (Nov 22), a rip-snorting salute to Stalin the wartime god. And no new film can compare with Visconti's masterly *The Leopard* (Nov 15), newly restored from the original negative, and a sight for the sorest eyes.

GEOFF BROWN

● London Film Festival, November 5-22, National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1, and other central London venues. Postal bookings for British Film Institute members from October 17; bookings for the general public from October 30 (071-928 3232).

Join The Times Theatre Club

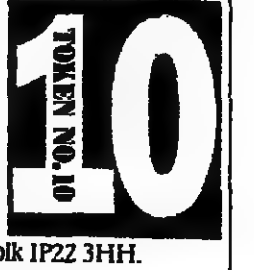


LAST week we launched The Theatre Club with the country's biggest ever theatre ticket offer giving two tickets for the price of one at more than 200 shows in over 100 theatres nationwide. That offer was open to all readers of The Times but in future the special offers will normally be available only to members of The Theatre Club. Future Club events include receptions to meet the cast, authors and directors; of productions, backstage visits to see how productions are mounted, visits to some of the country's most historic and modern theatres and also workshops and discussions

with distinguished members of the theatrical profession. The Theatre Club is organised in association with the Society of West End Theatre and the Theatrical Management Association which means that the club has the full backing and support of leading theatres across the country, from the largest West End theatre to the tiny Mull Little Theatre. Events will be organised at theatres all over the country giving you the opportunity to discover the rich variety of theatre available. When you join The Theatre Club you will receive a personalised membership card and a guide book giving details of all the participating theatres, so wherever you find yourself

you'll know what's available at a nearby theatre. HOW TO APPLY Becoming a member of The Theatre Club could not be simpler. There are two ways of joining. 1. By collecting ten of the tokens that have appeared in The Times over the past two weeks, the tenth token appears below. Or you can collect eight tokens from The Times and two from The Sunday Times. If you choose this option, Theatre Club membership will be free. 2. By returning the application form below. If you choose this option, please enclose a cheque made payable to The Theatre Club for £12.50. Whichever way you choose to join, send your completed application to: The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH. For more details about The Theatre Club phone 071 413 1412.

Application form. Please enrol me in The Theatre Club.
I enclose (please tick appropriate box): ☐ Ten Times tokens
☐ Eight Times tokens and two Sunday Times tokens
☐ One token plus cheque for £12.50. Cheque number _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone: _____
Post to: TTC, The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH.



Making waves in Minnesota

The voice of
Lake Wobegon has
returned home.
Neil MacLean tunes
in to Garrison
Keillor's new show

Thirty seconds before Garrison Keillor's new radio show, *American Radio Company*, returned to the air from the World Theatre in St Paul on Saturday night a lone voice called out from the back of the darkened theatre, "Welcome back."

As a spontaneous display of emotion from the assembly of Minnesotans, overjoyed to find their favourite offspiring back in the fold, it was a little restrained. But then, as Keillor himself points out, Minnesota is the State of Understatement "and these are not the sort of people to hoist you onto their shoulders". Nevertheless the prodigal son had returned and if they were not exactly killing fatted calves across the Midwest at least they were willing to consider baking a tuna hotdish.

When Keillor, who achieved international recognition through his first radio series *A Prairie Home Companion* with its Lake Wobegon stories, left St Paul in 1987 complaining of local press harassment, Minnesotans were dismayed. When he subsequently opened in New York fronting the *American Radio Company*, they were flabbergasted. The defection smacked of treachery and a great rift opened between the humorist and the source of much of his material. And that, in the end, is one of the reasons that has brought him and his national radio series back to Minnesota Public Radio.

"There are scores of great writers who could only write about where they were from when they got away," he explains. "But I don't have that talent. So, to write about Lake Wobegon, I need to be around Minnesota."

Talent, however, is something he has in abundance. Keillor is a consummate radio professional, soothing his audience over the last two minutes before the show beams live to 250 stations throughout America, like an anaesthetist talking his patient through the last few seconds of consciousness. As the clock at the side of the stage ticks down and the red light comes on, he slips off his tie, unbuckles his collar and while the Hot Coffee Band starts an opening tune, he welcomes his listeners and launches into a laidback Country and Midwestern sort of song. "It's Saturday night the band is playing; Honey, could we ask for more?"



On the radio: Garrison Keillor, with guests Allen Ginsberg and Robert Bly, in Keillor's Saturday-night show, *American Radio Company*

Anyone who knows Keillor only through his books or Wobegon tapes might be surprised by his singing. He is a crooner at heart with a sleepy spiritual-singer's baritone, occasionally stretching towards the outer limits of his range, but without any sign of fear. Those of the audience who already knew him well and who were expecting a carbon copy of the old *A Prairie Home Companion* were only partially disappointed.

His monologue, the News from Lake Wobegon, was still the jam in the doughnut, there were still a few of the fans' favourite spoof radio commercials, such as those for Café Boeuf (pronounced bœuf) — "home of the elegant boeuf dinner for two" — and there were the folksy messages and dedications to Ethel and Herman in Duluth and Cousin Jeannie in Iowa. Chet Atkins was the guest guitarist, the band played the "Lake Wobegon Blues", there was even a little topical sketch, called *Celebrity Kitchen* with Ross Perot ("I'll prepare this recipe

any way the American people want me to"). But there were also signs of a darker, sadder humour in Saturday night's opening broadcast.

Keillor's themes concerned decline and fall; the decline of radio; the steady decline, he says, of his radio show ("but that's all right, we can live with that") and what he perceives as his own personal decline (now he has reached his 50th birthday) — "and if you're in decline," he says, "it's good to be at home".

His voice is hypnotic: mellow and self-assured. You could almost believe he has managed to slow the nation down, to gather families around the radio the way they used to. But the first sketch acknowledged the decline of family radio, introducing the Lonesome Radio Theatre, a show created 60 years ago by Keillor's fictional WLT radio company. Written by the equally fictional Muriel M. Brubaker, it featured

characters such as Florence Beebe, show pilot ("a brave aviator who flew the uncharted territory of northern Wisconsin, bringing wholesome well-balanced meals to lonely trappers"); Roy Bradley, boy broadcaster ("brought to you by Thomson Tooth Tinsel, for brighter more festive teeth"); and Aunt Abby with her radio recipes full of butter, sugar, cream and a little more butter ("bringing sunshine and cholesterol into homes throughout the West").

The voices belonged to Keillor's regular band of strolling players from the Broadway Local Theatre Company — Ivy Austin, Jim Bohn and Sue Scott — with an impressive array of special effects emanating from the lips and larynx of Tom Keith of Minnesota Public Radio, while the small choir which hovered by the wings, occasionally encouraging us to drink Fishers Coffee, had been gathered from the ranks of the Plymouth Congregation Choir.

"Television," declared Keillor,

"with its ugliness and squalidness, was an experiment. And it failed." But once it appeared, it became unfashionable to have a radio in the house "and radio got redecorated right out of people's lives". Often it is Keillor's humour which prevents his message from appearing maudlin.

Strangely, the News from Lake Wobegon was one of the weakest sections in the show. Keillor seemed to be feeling his way, very tentatively, back into his former world. But then, when a prodigal son returns home, everyone has a bit of adjusting to do.

He sang a hymn, "Lead Me Gently Home Father", and when the show was over we all stood among the autumn leaves outside the World Theatre in the chill night air, eating freshly popped Candyland Caramel Corn while Keillor was presented with a ceremonial set of jump leads for his car to mark the occasion — just to remind him of the Minnesota climate, and of the positive and negative aspects of coming home.

ROCK

Not so strident, but still sharp

Paul Weller
Albert Hall

IT HAS been 15 years since Paul Weller was the spokesman for a generation, but that generation still has a soft spot for him. Thirtyish now, shod in Doc Martens for comfort rather than style, they turned out on Tuesday to welcome back the old punk and political activist.

Weller has mellowed along with his admirers. The exuberant figure on stage bore little resemblance to the insurgent who used gigs as vehicles for harangues against "Fatcher". Stridency has been succeeded by a more attractive pensive-

ness. Maturity becomes Weller. He has grown into his looks and his famous dandyishness has evolved into elegance. He bounded on stage wearing a polo T-shirt and trousers whose sleekness intimidated a large American Express bill. The 34-year-old singer cut a dash.

The first four songs were a précis of Weller's career. His debt to classic soul was acknowledged with a buoyant version of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?". It was followed by the recent hit (and Weller's first solo single), "Uhh-Huh, Oh Yeh". It was dispatched so quickly that its bubbling jazz-funk chords barely registered.

Next was the show's mandatory nod to the group that made Weller famous. With a treasury of Jam songs to choose from, it seemed odd that he opted for a relatively obscure album track, "Man in the Corner Shop". The crowd adored it; at the first notes they shoved forward as though it were the 100 Club in 1977. Finally, "Call Me" resurrected the Style Council's cocktail funk.

Weller has always negotiated musical bends gracefully. His present reflective soulmate persona suits him well. There is a solipsism to the new *Paul Weller* album, to judge by which dance music never happened. But performed live, the music expanded, sweet and

symmetrical, into Weller's most beguiling tunes since the early Eighties.

Songs from the LP dominated the set. Numbers such as "Clues" and "Bull-Rush" already have the broken-in feel of classics. Weller, who sang and played guitar, was relaxed in the company of his virtuoso backing band.

Just how virtuosos was wear- ingly demonstrated by a long instrumental passage mid-show. It included a five-minute drum solo of the sort usually prohibited by boredom bye-laws.

Politics eventually reared its head with a cover of Neil Young's "Ohio". This was delivered with some vehemence but was anomalous in a show that mainly dealt with more personal issues. If Weller



Weller: mellowing with his fans

felt an inclination to rant he suppressed it.

The music business has changed since Paul Weller's punkhood. To his fans he is a reminder of the days when you could count on goalposts staying where they were. As this concert proved, however, Weller has managed to cope with shifting ones with no loss of integrity.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

FRINGE THEATRE: an American rarity; and a Sean O'Casey triple bill

Black comedy finds its roots

Over the past dozen years, British theatre directors have cast their new further and further afield, so that a notice in these columns will often mention that the work reviewed is a British premiere, 50 or 100 years after its first production elsewhere. With plays in foreign tongues, there is no great puzzlement at the delay.

But what is one to make of the delay in staging *Trouble in Mind* (at the Tricycle)? This fascinating and spirited play by Alice Childress was produced in New York as long ago as 1957, and thus antedates all other black American writing we have become familiar with in this country. So far as I can tell, none of Childress's other works have been produced here either, but if they display anything like the verve of this, her first play, I long to see them.

Presumably, it was written just too soon, before our own black theatre got going, and disappeared into the abyss of



Artfully comic: Carmen Munroe and Marice Roëves

unconsidered plays from which *Nicolas Kent* has now retrieved it. For a first play, it is remarkably assured, treating racial intolerance in an altogether novel form: a form, moreover, generally used for farce, in which a group of actors rehearse a comically dreadful drama.

Four black and two white actors are trying to breathe life into characters who embody just about every cliché to be found in old-style "serious" drama about the South. Black women with the names of flowers (Petalia, Magnolia) or jewels (Ruby, Pearl); the son who stands up for his citizen's

rights; dandies flopping down on their knees to pray to "de Lawd"; the white miss who sympathises with their plight. The scene in which the black actors, in need of work, uncomplainingly (at first) project these stereotypes is wickedly funny. They bob and drawl at the command of the unwittingly patronising white director — Maurice Roëves, excellent — until Carmen Munroe, the black mammy, can take the distortions no longer and revolts.

Her blistering parody of all her past gushin' and grievin' roles is both sublimely comic and socially astute. Munroe plays it with heart-felt relish. Childress's dialogue is also rich in irony. Only in the scenes of multiple conversation does her writing betray a "prettice hand, and Kent's direction here falters for a moment. Otherwise, his admirable cast do the play proud. Recommended.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Irishness (no Englishman would dare to come up with these stereotypes). Set in a Pimlico post office, it charts the misadventures of two workmen trying to take a pound out of a savings account while the drawer is too drunk to sign his name, speak or, eventually, stand. The main foil is an outraged matron, a Margaret Dumont-type, the genre is revue sketch, the playing of McSorley and Cooper is superb.

Bedtime Story, premiered as late as 1952, paradoxically looks back the furthest to Schnitzler's philanthropists and obliging young women. Set in 1930s Dublin, it portrays the chaos that results when a religious young man (Cooper, better than ever) repents after taking a girl back to his lodgings. Farcical misunderstandings lead to assumptions of madness, a black twist that anticipates Ayckbourn. Here the direction by Shivam O'Casey, the author's daughter, could be faster and more frenetic; but the triple bill sheds an intriguing light on genius in unbuttoned mood.

MARTIN HOYLE

Philadelphia, here they come

tated against the spirit of the playlets. They cry out for the conviviality that accompanies clinking glass and (politically incorrect) smoke, not awed reverence.

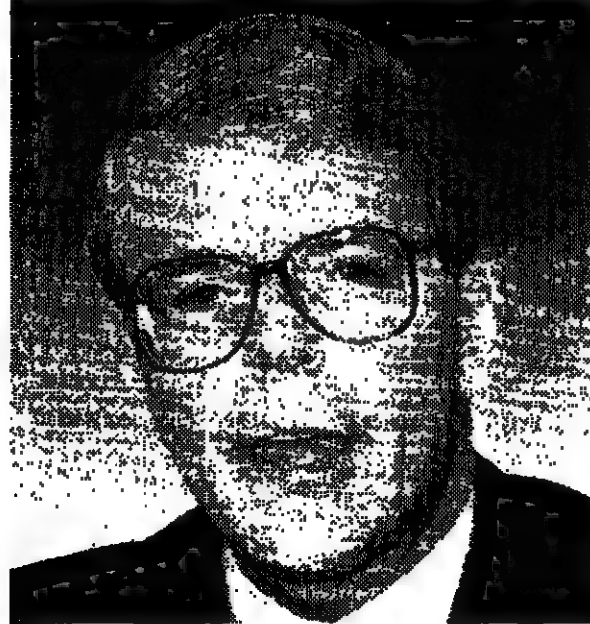
The Sean O'Casey Theatre Company was formed last year. As the spelling suggests, their eyes are turned across the Atlantic as much as the

Irish Sea. After Islington they go to Glasgow, Belfast, New York and Philadelphia.

"Buzz off and I'll show you and all your sex how the work of the house is done," says clownish Darry to his drudge of a wife. They swap chores in *The End of the Beginning*, a bucolic romp written in 1934, to disastrous effect: smashed china, broken windows, sliced fingers and bloody noses result as Darry and his friend Barry indulge in the sort of destructive do-it-yourself that evokes the paint/pastry-slapping routines of pantomime. Gerard McSorley plays Darry with George Robey eyebrows and the wide-eyed owlishness of a more innocent Benny Hill. As his blundering side-kick, Ristard Cooper is a study in spine-shaking myopia, an unerring caricature of James Joyce.

A Pound on Demand (1932) continues the theme of comic

Come on you blues!



This Saturday, an exclusive statement from the Prime Minister.

Maastricht and the ECU can prompt John Major to strong words. But what brings out his passion? This Saturday, in *Weekend*, he writes about the burning enthusiasm that has followed him throughout his career, through ups and downs and thick and thin — Chelsea Football Club.

Robert Maxwell: the tainted legacy.

In the year since Robert Maxwell died, he has made more headlines than in all his publicity-hungry life. Roy Greenslade, former editor of the *Daily Mirror*, looks back on a year of revelations and examines the fortunes of

those who, by choice or bad luck, were part of Maxwell's world: the banks, the newspapers, the cohorts, the family and the pensioners.

And a feast of good writing...

Jonathan Meades on lobster that might have been fried in heaven: Clement Freud has lunch with Gary Lineker: Douglas Adams talks about his childhood: and Malcolm Bradbury praises the East of England.

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America's soldier for all seasons

What do the memoirs of the man who won the Gulf war tell us about America? Alan Clark wants him in the White House

Is the United States really a great power? Or is it, as Paul Kennedy's thesis has it, dangerously over-extended and doomed to implode over the next decade, afflicted by a combination of economic imbalance, socio-political corruption, and isolationism?

Implicit among the attributes of a great power is that of being formidable on the battlefield (indeed in our own case it is about the only pretence that remains to Britain for any status in the power league). And here the American record is mixed.

I have always admired their aviators as skilful and brave. And if they occasionally lose off at some stray target — an unsuspecting Libyan jet or a Turkish destroyer — that is just gun-gone. In the last war, the Eighth Air Force went on flying with a 20 per cent attrition rate, *per mission*.

The occasional Bomber Command tendency of "creep-back" (which began to rear its head uncomfortably early in the Gulf) was unknown.

And the Marine Corps was outstanding. Very few units in the world would have gone to two Jima after what happened at Tarawa afloat. But the army? One recalls Kasserine, and the Ardennes, and — inevitably — Vietnam.

Schwarzkopf did two tours in Vietnam, one as an adviser, the second in charge of a really bad battalion, known as "the worst of the lot". In a notoriously clumsy and trigger-happy division. When he took command the men were completely demoralised. They never saw their officers. And when on patrol they wouldn't shoot, even if the enemy walked past their ambush, because the Vietnamese always got the better of them.

Schwarzkopf's account reminds the reader of just what a beating the Americans took in Indo-China. And, also of how indifferent — even hostile — the public was at home. There is a heartbreaking description of the young Schwarzkopf trying to solicit praise or at least an enquiry from a cab-driver who took him home from the airport — "Gee, (he was in uniform) I

haven't seen Newark for a while," and so on — only to be received in sullen silence.

Reforms followed, and the army that went out to the Gulf was changed out of all recognition from the unhappy "draftees" who floundered about in the Vietnam jungle — although from reading between the lines, it seems that units shared with the Czarist Imperial Army of 1914 the advantage that the men, particularly the noncoms, were of better quality than the officers.

Schwarzkopf was the ideal commander — not least because the black soldiers regarded him as a brother (the highest term of praise), for once, at enormous personal risk, he had rescued a wounded black private from a minefield in the Basang.

It may be that Schwarzkopf was in building up strength for "the mother of all battles". Dr Paul Rogers (a luminary of whom much less is heard these days) was not alone in warning — with charts and illustrations — against "the myth of a short sharp war". But Schwarzkopf's plan, and his intention — to annihilate the Republican Guard — were impeccable.

Alas, the fumbling and over-cautious commanders in the key VII Corps, Generals Franks and Yeosack, insisted on regrouping once they had broken through the Iraqi position, and three Republican Guard divisions poured through the breach, escaping to the north. It is a failing not unknown among commanders in the hour of victory, and one need look no further than Montgomery at Alamein. Once the Guard had fled, the front crumbled in its entirety. Schwarzkopf fixed upon Safwan airport for the formalities of the surrender. He had given instructions that it should be occupied, and that a substantial show of American force should be demonstrated. But again Franks and Yeosack thwarted him. At the last moment, he discovered that they had not occupied it because there were some Iraqi T72s there, and in view of the ceasefire they could not approach too close.

IT DOESN'T TAKE A HERO

The Autobiography
By General H. Norman Schwarzkopf
with Peter Petre
Bantam Press, £17.99

unwillingly in building up strength for "the mother of all battles". Dr Paul Rogers (a luminary of whom much less is heard these days) was not alone in warning — with charts and illustrations — against "the myth of a short sharp war". But Schwarzkopf's plan, and his intention — to annihilate the Republican Guard — were impeccable.

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Echoes of bucolic boyhood

J.W.M. Thompson

GREAT MEADOW
An Evocation
By Dirk Bogarde
Viking, £15.99

except for a tin tub in front of the fire. The beds were warmed by bricks heated in the oven and then wrapped in flannel. Oil lamps and candles provided the only lighting. There was an outside privy, and one of young Bogarde's weekly tasks was to dig the hole for what was politely termed "night soil". The rent was 7/6d a week (that is 37½ p).

In these antique conditions he was exceedingly happy. The cottage was in "real country", a place now all but wiped off the map by the spread of cities and roads. The woods and fields were as they had always been. Ideal settings for childhood adventures. There were true country characters about, such

as old Mr Lush who had lived in Wiltshire all his life and had never been anywhere else, except once when he visited Hastings after the Boer War. There were old country customs, too. At harvest time the Bogarde children joined the villagers in "gleeing" over the stubble, while men stood ready to pot rabbits trying to escape from the last square of standing corn.

They went to the cool dairy at the farm to collect milk ("Today's or yesterday's?" they were asked). The most important adult in it was their former nanny, known as Lally. Their parents, evidently a rather dashing pair, appeared intermittently from Hampstead, driving down in a rakish Italian sports car called "the O.M." (for Officina Meccanica). Bogarde's father was in charge of pictures at *The Times*, and one of the annual signs that Christmas was approaching was his fussing about what the family called "The Photograph", a special half-page picture for the Christmas edition which always had to show a beautiful landscape including either snow or a heavy

frost. One year there was snow near the cottage at the right time; then there was a winter picnic with the photographer.

Bogarde calls this latest slice of autobiography "an evocation", and he has written it in the words of the boy he used to be a device which works well enough most of the time, although occasionally the boyish vocabulary and syntax seem forced. But the distant scenes are vividly recaptured by details of forgotten pleasures, such as Kiffel Tower lemonade, which came as a powder, and the Famous Grouse cigarette cards.

There are echoes of the controversies that agitated adults, concerning the infidelity of Sunday cinema or women with cropped hair. And there are the salubrious Lally's passing references to "Mr Hitler", who before long was to shatter the peaceful life.

Learning to live with the dying

Contemplation of death necessarily pervades Adam Mars-Jones's collection of short stories dealing with AIDS, several of which are reprinted from an earlier collection, *The Darker Profound*. The problems of writing about the subject are addressed in the book's thoughtful introductory essay. In the seven years since the appearance of *Stim*, his first story about AIDS, Mars-Jones has become identified with the subject to the extent of being, as he himself wryly puts it, "the *poète maudit* of HIV — a reputation that carries the charge of having expropriated the sufferings of others."

This allegation is echoed in one of the stories in the collection, "The Changes of Those Terrible Years", in which — significantly, perhaps — appears last in the book, although it is not the most recent. In this story, a man who has converted his house into a hospice for people dying from AIDS is accused (by one of the dying) of "growing fat on other people's misery". In context, the rebuke seems undeserved, and the outburst is a deliberate disruption of the book's measured tone in which emotions are underplayed and terrible events are described with laconic understatement. More typical is the shift of perspective at the end of "A Small Spade", in which an apparently trivial accident — a splinter under the fingernail — is seen to have serious implications for the protagonist and his HIV-positive lover: "A tiled corridor filled with doctors and nurses opened off every room he would ever share with Nell. He had always known it was there, but today the door to it had briefly been opened."

AIDS has brought the lovers together and will, inevitably, separate them.

AIDS, according to the author, has "a narrative of its own, a story it wants to tell, and it is also an irrelevance". Such contradictions are central to these stories, which offer an unsparring account of the pathology of the illness, at the same time as transforming it with ironic humour. When, for example, the lovers in "Baby Chino" (one of whom is seriously ill in hospital) construct a private language of pen-names and jockey euphemisms — "cardboard" — vomit-bowls — trans-fused to "haze" — and then to "Astaire" and "Berkeley" — the attempt to make light of an intolerable situation only brings it more sharply into focus.

These nine stories, the most recent of which was written earlier this year, constitute a kind of

psychological history of the AIDS epidemic, charting the shifts in attitude from denial through to accommodation. Although it borrows devices from reportage, this collection is something far more sophisticated. The lucid style and surreal inventiveness in the author's first book, *Lantern Lecture*, has been harnessed to a serious theme, and the result — far from being exploitative — conveys a sense of the devastation of individual lives that no amount of polemic could achieve.

John McGahern's collected stories include material from three earlier volumes, the first published more than 20 years ago, as well as previously uncollected work. Since the original publication dates of every story are not given, it is hard to tell whether the sequence in which they are arranged reflects the chronology of their composition or represents a thematic grouping.

With a writer whose themes and settings change as little as McGahern's it hardly seems to matter. The characters are archetypal figures (the priest, the schoolmaster) and the themes, as in the author's most recent novel, *Amongst Women*, are the frustration of hope and the imminence of death.

"Wheels" is the first story in the book, sets the tone of the rest. It concerns a middle-aged man's visit to his elderly father, and describes the son's relief at having escaped the reversal of roles whereby "fathers become children to their sons who repay the care they had when they were young".

The implacable enmity of fathers and sons is a recurrent theme in this collection, where the overall mood is one of fatalistic bleakness. There is an anachronistic feel about the world these stories evoke: a sense that the landscapes and characters are derived as much from literature as from life. The writer's models are Chekhov and the early Joyce, but McGahern's stories lack the humour and energy of those writers.

Now in its fifth year, the Ian St James Award was established to offer the incentives of publication and financial reward to inexperienced writers. Unfortunately, most of the stories in *Blood, Sweat and Tears* betray the marks of that inexperience. The exceptions are Chuck Anderson's slyly comic account of marital betrayal, "Life Begins at 40", and Frances Watt's "A View of Anatolia", which conveys a realistic account of Edinburgh student life with a suggestion of the occult.

We are not a muse

Stephen Beller

GUSTAV KLIMT AND EMILIE FLÖGE
An Artist and his Muse
By Wolfgang G. Fischer
Lund Humphries, £27.50

Gustav's Klimt's *The Kiss* has become one of the more popular icons of the late 20th century. On the walls of student digs the world over, it has become an emblem of the celebration of sensuality and modern decadence which we think of as *fin de siècle* Vienna. The two embracing lovers symbolise the ecstasy of erotic fulfilment, of the conjunction of male ardour and female fertility — or do they?

Wolfgang Fischer tells us in this beautifully produced and intriguing volume that the two lovers in the painting are Klimt himself and his companion of many years, Emilie Flöge. But they never married. Their relationship may not even have been consummated, although he fathered at least three illegitimate children — and possibly as many as 14 — by other women.

This is the most sensational aspect of the relationship between artist and muse; but the relationship also allows the author to explore various aspects of art and society in Vienna in 1900. Despite a sometimes overly exclamatory style, Fischer provides an interesting account of the social background of both Klimt and Flöge in the artisan classes, of his battle against domination by Paris, and the role of Flöge's fashion salon in the development of "modern" fashion in Vienna. The text is accompanied by superb illustrations, some already well-known, but many not.



Emilie Flöge: photographed in Klimt's garden, c. 1905-6, and painted by him in 1902, wearing clothes designed by the artist

It is, however, the question of the nature of the relationship between Gustav and Emilie that haunts the book. I do not think it prudent to want to know whether or not "the artist and his muse" had sex with each other. If, as Fischer seems to be strongly suggesting, they did not, the implications for Viennese modernism are disquieting. Fischer's Klimt represents the inability to comprehend woman as both human being and sexual being. Either Klimt slept with his women, as of legend, or he treated them as rational and hence non-sexual. Fischer's Klimt was never able to take the responsibility of marrying the two images of woman together, just as he never could face the responsibility of marriage to Emilie, making her his wife.

Perhaps this should not surprise.

Vienna was also home to Otto Weininger, and the image of woman as either saint or whore has very old roots. If Fischer is right, *The Kiss*, so often seen as a consummate expression of both spiritual and physical love, becomes the expression of a wish left unrequited. One could argue that their relationship was artistically fruitful, as this book comprehensively shows; nevertheless *The Kiss* represents a love without issue, of a man who could not accept personal responsibility and a woman who stayed with him and adored him anyway. In this light there is an autumnal sadness to *The Kiss*, which only some few close to the Vienna of the time, such as Hilde Spiel, ever suspected.

Steven Beller is the author of several books on Viennese culture

Another stint in the bibliopillory

Christopher Hawtree

DRIFT'S GUIDE, 1992-93
By Drift Field
Drift Field Guides, £9.99

A couple of decades ago, in a foreword to the Antiquarian Book Fair catalogue, Philip Larkin remarked: "Only the other day I found myself eyeing a patch of wall in my flat and thinking I could get some more shelves in there." Since then, not only have books come under fire from the burgeoning technology which finds videocassettes a prime teaching "tool", but walls have dwindled to those of a "starter home" whose very fabric can scarcely support a shelf without risk of subsidence.

In peculiar defiance of this, new books have swollen in shape — and sales are down, publishers now justified in the despair which now justifies their affected stock-in-trade. Be all this as it may, the secondhand trade thrives. Not that such strength, in the face of adversity can offer much guidance to the rest of industry, for it is peopled by the eccentric whose defiance of economic laws cannot be fathomed, an object of marvel and derision.

It is for this quality that Drift has become known over the past ten years. He is regularly to be seen atop a strengthened bicycle as he goes, nattily dressed, from shop to shop around the country in quest of books that he can sell at a profit, a trade which he turned to further account by compiling and publishing a guide for those who wished to follow in his footsteps.

By dint of minuscule type abbreviations ("bks" and "acronyms" ("fars" means "follows around recommending the stock"), Drift compressed his idiosyncratic remarks, peculiar punctuation and much-salty information into a small space. Many were the booksellers, accustomed to sober references in guides confined to the trade, who were startled by such assault.

Drift has all the subtlety of a catering pack of After Eight mints. The amiable Mr Baddeley of the Cottage Bookshop in Penn, for example, was summed up with a block capital description: "Given

the dedication to [closing] time, the way the stock is crammed, in the rough treatment the books receive, the locked room, the isolated & difficult to find location it seems obvious the owner missed his vocation, he should have been a prison officer."

Every year or two a rewritten edition appeared, often on sale in the shops it scorned — among them, Skoob of 11 Sicilian Avenue WC1, which has since published sober guides of its own, benefiting from the wayward course that Drift took. Anybody could have told him that there was not a market for a forthrightly satirical magazine about the trade, but he forged on to a complicated bankruptcy.

Ever resilient, last year's return to action found him unabashed, ready to scorn the trade and "the sweaty anorak brigade" which comprises much of its custom. Perhaps by now there are even collectors of Drift. The very first edition is scarce indeed, and the sixth is likely to prove all the more controversial, not least because it has leapt in format, and has broadened the grapho-book market: hold it up one way and there is an essay, "How to Find a Book", with garish illustrations; turn it over and the usual guide is outweighed by a series of pieces which lay into his familiar targets — opening hours, charity shops, British Rail, Hay on Wye, Ireland — and offers such worldly wisdom as the reminder that the man who makes most money in a goldrush is the one selling shovels.

Drift's Guide is available from 41 North Road, London N7 9DP (071-607 1757).

Christina Koning

MONOPOLIES OF LOSS
By Adam Mars-Jones
Faber, £5.99

THE COLLECTED STORIES
By John McGahern
Faber, £14.99

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS
The winners of the 1992 Ian St James Awards
Portland, £5.99

the first story in the book, sets the tone of the rest. It concerns a middle-aged man's visit to his elderly father, and describes the son's relief at having escaped the reversal of roles whereby "fathers become children to their sons who repay the care they had when they were young".

The implacable enmity of fathers and sons is a recurrent theme in this collection, where the overall mood is one of fatalistic bleakness. There is an anachronistic feel about the world these stories evoke: a sense that the landscapes and characters are derived as much from literature as from life. The writer's models are Chekhov and the early Joyce, but McGahern's stories lack the humour and energy of those writers.

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The worst form of government, but for all the rest

Has democracy won? The Oxford philosopher John Gray fears that it may be a mere episode in the post-communist world

The unified British constitution is an easy target for reformers of both the left and the right. Lacking anything like entrenched rights or a supreme court, it is often represented as a form of elective dictatorship or parliamentary absolutism, a system in which the winner in the general election takes all.

On the left, our inherited constitution is condemned as a barbarous relic of medievalism, and the fashionable slogan is "citizens, not subjects". On the right, the unlimited authority of Parliament is attacked on the ground that ephemeral majorities may curb important freedoms, including the economic liberties embodied in the market economy, and allow a slow slide into serfdom. The remedy prescribed is the same in both cases, and differs only in details. Our traditional constitutional arrangements should be scrapped, and Parliament made subject to a bill of rights interpreted by an independent supreme court.

Left and right differ about which rights are to be so entrenched — whether they are to be group rights, positive welfare rights or the negative rights of old-fashioned liberalism. They have in common the conviction that these rights should be matters for legal adjudication, removed from the realm of public discourse and political decision.

They have the same exemplar for their rival schemes of entrenched rights: the United States, where political conflicts are fought out in the courts, and a tradition of public discourse has virtually disappeared. When the history of our age comes to be written, not the least of its ironies will be that the new right in Britain has proposed casting aside the well-tried traditions of our own constitution and embracing the chaos of American legalism, while the left has adopted America as its model of a political culture held together by an abstract ideal of equal rights. In each case the reformers have sought to impose on Britain an alien model that in the context of any modern state is a prescription for ungovernability.

This is not to say that all is well with the British constitution as it stands. One of the many merits of Lord Hailsham's profound and succinct new book is that while rejecting the quick remedies of written constitutions and bills of rights, it forcefully confronts the real dangers of over-centralisation, over-legislation and elective dictatorship. His proposals are at once judicious and controversial: the devolution of government by both region and function; the incorporation into British law of the European Convention on Human Rights; reform of the judiciary and of the criminal justice system.

What is invaluable in this book is not its specific suggestions, but the spirit in which it is written — that of a thinker who sees that conservatism and reform go together, provided that reform is the improvement of inherited practice rather than its reconstruction on some ideal plan. This book deserves to be widely read because it exemplifies the virtue rarest in an era of faddism: wisdom.

When Bernard Crick's *In Defence of Politics* was first published 30 years ago, it could make a fair claim to profundity. He argued persuasively that politics — the public reconciliation of their differences by

free people through discussion and negotiation — is an indispensable and underrated activity. He defended it powerfully against the claims of those who thought it could be replaced or eliminated by the application of an ideology, by social engineering or by reliance on the supposed deliverances of tradition. Crick's book was a minor classic, a pertinent contemporary defence of Aristotle's thesis that we are inherently political animals against all those who imagined that the political condition could somehow be transcended — an illusion which has resulted in the reduction of human beings to objects of administration.

Since its publication, the enemies of politics have changed, and the book has for that reason dated badly. In the 1980s, the project of eliminating politics was taken up by the theorists of rights, who wanted to replace it by law, so corrupting both politics and the law. This whole period is now

exploited by regimes that have nothing else in common: but the events of the last few years mean that democracy has become the norm of political legitimacy, with no surviving competitors.

It is the message of John Dunn's instructive collection that democracy is special: there is simply no alternative to grounding political authority on the consent of the people. This is true, as Dunn makes clear, even if the nature of the modern state makes the democratic ideal only imperfectly realisable.

Dunn's anthology contains several noteworthy pieces. Simon Hornblower contributes an elegant account of the creation of democratic institutions in ancient Greece, giving Sparta its overdue credit for originating some democratic practices of public consultation. Quentin Skinner gives an illuminating interpretation of democratic experiments in the Italian city-republics from the 12th century onwards, showing that hereditary government was challenged and repudiated and a genuine ideology of popular sovereignty was propagated. Other authors chart the metamorphoses of the democratic idea in more modern times.

It is as a history of democratic ideology that the book is most worthwhile. But the long history of the idea gives little support to Dunn's thesis that the book's other contributors — that the triumph of democratic norms of government is irreversible. Like the triumphalist American neo-conservatives who found a spokesman in Francis Fukuyama, with his wild claim that democratic capitalism is "the final form of human government", Dunn reads too many of the doctrines of the Enlightenment into the collapse of communism.

The point is not the obvious one, which Dunn would readily concede, that the huge costs of managing the transition are bound to compromise or dislocate the fledgling post-communist democracies. It is the deeper objection that in many parts of the post-communist world the sources of political authority are pre-modern — in ethnic allegiance, in religious tradition, and in ancient cultural identities in which democracy has no part. It is China, where market institutions are combined with Confucian authoritarian traditions, not democratic India, that is likely to be an augury for the future. It seems scarcely to have occurred to Dunn that democratic institutions in Russia, say, may be merely episodes, with the future there belonging to no Western ideology, least of all that of popular sovereignty.

It is salutary to turn to Antony Black's invaluable account of medieval political thought to be reminded of the pluralism of medieval thought. As authority itself wanes — especially the authority that was founded on the political tenets of the Enlightenment — it is ever more fruitful to turn back to medieval times for real enlightenment. Then political theorising was rooted in the beliefs that people held about the communities they lived in and the goods they valued. Black's book is a pleasure to read, if only for the many evidences it gives the reader that political theory was not always the dreary recitation of liberal formulae, conducted at a safe distance from reality, that it has largely become.

ON THE CONSTITUTION
By Lord Hailsham
HarperCollins, £13.99

IN DEFENCE OF POLITICS
By Bernard Crick
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99

DEMOCRACY
The unfinished journey
508 BC to AD 1993
Edited by John Dunn
OUP, £17.95

POLITICAL THOUGHT IN EUROPE, 1250-1450
By Antony Black
Cambridge, £27.95 / £8.95pbk

scarcely touched upon in the book's fourth edition, aside from a few baffled references to the new right. Again, Crick leaves largely unreviewed the chapter in which he defends politics against nationalism, treating the latter as a piece of doctrinal excess, rather than the primordial political passion that has swept all else before it in our time.

Crick gives a blimpy account of the enthusiasm for market institutions in the post-communist world, finding in it a deplorable lack of British moderation, and failing utterly to grasp their role in renewing civil society — and therefore the possibility of politics — in the former Soviet bloc. He even achieves a sort of *tour de force* in anachronism when he invokes the Swedish model, overlooking its comprehensive collapse. Politics, Crick argues, is not an approximation to some higher and better state of mankind, but a permanent element in any civilised form of life. It is an important argument, and one of which we need reminding.

The central theme of *Democracy: The Unfinished Journey* is that, whereas since the beginnings of systematic thought about government democracy has been one political ideal among many, it is now accepted everywhere as the sole basis for legitimate political authority. It may have emerged, almost by chance, 25 centuries ago; it may have suffered a partial or complete eclipse in the medieval period and in that of early modern absolutism; and throughout the 20th century it may have been



Leni Riefenstahl: alongside Hitler during the war and (right) acquitted of collaboration with the Nazis at a Berlin court in 1952

Liberated but illiberal pioneers

In feminist her-storyography, the 20th century is at least a century of hope in woman-kind's age-old struggle against patriarchal usurpation of authority among humankind. Despite dogged resistance by male chauvinists, women have steadily advanced their rights and their role in society over the past hundred years. But in the story of woman's liberation, the role of some pioneers has been neglected. Contrary to the Whiggish storybook of female progress, some of the most dramatic leaps over the obstacles of male prejudice were made by far from progressive women. Each of these two books, in its own way, illustrates the significance of illiberal liberated women in creating the modern world.

For most people, even today, Marie Stopes was the apostle of birth-control and of sexual liberation. June Rose's fascinating account brings out not only Marie Stopes's own belated enjoyment of the fruits of sexual licence but also the ideological framework in which she advocated contraception. Stopes was a typical egotist and no friend of the "lower" human types, whether male or female.

Mark Almond
THE SIEVE OF TIME
Memoirs of Leni Riefenstahl
By Leni Riefenstahl
Quartet, £30

MARIE STOPES AND THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION
By June Rose
Faber, £14.99

Her opposition to the contemporary fascist leaders resulted more from their misapplication of eugenic theory than horror at its consequences. Like some Nazi theorists of racial hygiene, she worried that the "most valuable" elements in the male population were most likely to die in warfare. Although it was upper and middle-class women who followed Stopes's advocacy of contraception, it was the C2s and below that Stopes looked for the effective use of birth-control to limit the teeming masses. If Stopes has been an icon of the feminist movement, Leni

Riefenstahl, now 90, has been a living skeleton in its cupboard. Now available in English are the memoirs of the woman who immortalised both the Nuremberg rallies (which she filmed twice, as *Victory of Faith* and *Triumph of the Will*) and the 1936 Olympics.

Of non-English-speaking directors, only Eisenstein was more influential on film-makers in the first half of the century than Riefenstahl. If Hitler had won the war, would the creator of *Battleship Potemkin* have had the same underground influence that Riefenstahl continues to exercise? Riefenstahl is a film genius, but this overlong self-defence will do little to lift the shadows from her reputation. It fits too easily into the catalogue of gifted Germans who went along with Hitler, preferring to promote their own careers and genius under his patronage and remaining willfully ignorant of the nature of his regime until too late.

Riefenstahl not only defends herself against the charge of having served Nazi propaganda, she generously takes others under her protecting wing. This is unfortunate, since they are usually even

better documented as servants of Nazi propaganda. Take Henri Nannen, for instance, the owner of *Stern*, which published Riefenstahl's nude photographs of Sudanese Nubians in the 1970s (as well as the "Hitler Diaries" a decade later). Riefenstahl's defence of his reputation overlooks articles which he published in *Das schwarze Korps*, the house magazine of Himmler's SS.

Film buffs willing to wade through pages of self-pity will find odd technical details and anecdotes which might make this book worthwhile. Historians will not benefit much from Riefenstahl's recounting of her meetings with the Nazi "great and good", except where she settles scores with those who survived the Third Reich by denouncing people like her. Her films will remain her legacy, arousing ambivalent admiration.

Feminist understanding of the roots of the women's movement in our century will only come of age when it gives up a black-and-white portrayal of its past and admits to shades not only of grey but also of brown. Not every woman who got to the top was a pioneer of progress.

How complex was the comic genius?

Philip Bassett

P.G. WODEHOUSE
Man and Myth
By Barry Phelps
Constable, £16.95

now fetch high prices from American dealers. He is rightly dissatisfied with the standard version of Wodehouse's life. Frances Donaldson's 1981 book *P.G. Wodehouse: The Authorised Biography* (which has just been reissued in paperback) is just what is needed to put this by now pretty clear pool once again. Indeed, once Phelps's version of the war incident is over, the last 30 years of Wodehouse's life are quickly dismissed.

Phelps knows his Wodehouse: he used to be the principal British dealer in Wodehouseiana 20 years ago; his catalogues from those days were so good that they themselves

battled with the American Inland Revenue (being prepared, trusting, and ambitious. But the affair of the war broadcast was so devastating, according to Phelps, that afterwards Wodehouse created an image of himself as an "amiable and unworldly recluse, the simple man with a lucky ability to write sparkling humour who claimed he was about as pronounced an oaf as ever went around with his lower jaw drooping and a glassy look in his eyes".

Quite apart from failing to say why being "complex" is somehow better than being "simple" — useful to the biographer though this may be — Phelps never adequately demonstrates the complexity. Take one of the classic stories: a county lady, hearing of the young Wodehouse's social graces, invited his mother to bring her son to tea, only to be appalled when the socially graceless Pelham Grenville Wode-

house turned up, rather than his mellifluous elder brother Armine. Phelps asserts that in the Edwardian era, such a mistake by a hostess is simply "not credible". Then he goes on to use this assertion to cast doubt on Wodehouse's own telling of the story, and so to show his "complexity".

This theory blights the book, which is a shame, since otherwise *P.G. Wodehouse: Man and Myth* is a great deal better than previous attempts at his life. In particular, it is better researched, helped partly by the availability of Lady Donaldson's selection from Wodehouse's letters (though Phelps admirably marshals the unpublished sources, including new letters).

Perhaps the best clues to this annoyingly flawed biography lie in the strange title of Phelps's introductory chapter, "Wodehouse and Me", and the even more bizarre cartoon on the book's dustjacket, depicting Wodehouse playing Jeeves to Phelps's Wooster. If that is how this biographer sees his relationship with his subject, it is surprising that the loopiness of Phelps's attempted demythologising of Wodehouse has not further damaged his otherwise impressive work.

IS THE LAW MALE?

A TIMES/Dillons debate on injustice in the legal system, in particular towards women, will be led by Helena Kennedy QC and opposed by Christina Gorna on Thursday, October 29 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Readers can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon.

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Just and eloquent plea for those the courts forget

Stephen Tumim

EVE WAS FRAMED
By Helena Kennedy
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

Although it sounds rather like the title of an old-fashioned detective story — an unknown Michael Innes perhaps — *Eve Was Framed* is a new study of women and criminal justice by the controversialist and barrister, Helena Kennedy QC.

By their nature, polemics are unfair: they do not pretend to balance. This is sometimes disguised by an academic style of understatement, of which the late Lord Devlin was the master. Helena Kennedy will have none of it. When she turns to the clubs to which judges belong, they become "leather-bound watering holes", a rather bizarre image. Back she goes to the Temple, where "the smell of the gentleman's club permeates every crevice of the Inns of Court". The splutter supplants the image. "Was Eve Framed?" would have been a very different book from *Eve Was Framed*.

Her polemic does not entail an attack on every aspect of the legal system. She enthuses with the favour of a Rumpole, and in oddly similar language, over the burden of proof, the golden thread, the cab-rank principle for the Bar: "Graven in the stones of great halls, they are the core and strength of the legal tradition." She

defends the system against encroachment by the continental inquisitorial system, so strongly championed by Ludovic Kennedy. She proclaims the villainy of many women criminals. Myra Hindley is no heroine here.

But as one progresses through this book's very readable chapters, the author's serious purpose becomes clear. It is to identify and denounce the stereotyped thinking she finds common at all levels in the system. She observes the stereotype in terms of social class, of blacks and whites and Asians, the "good wife" and the "bad wife", and in particular in terms of the woman as witness in the context of the trial for rape.

Judges are mostly male. It is they who direct and advise the jury. But judges — both male and female — are brought up in law on the doctrine of "the reasonable man". There are some things he does and others he does not do.



Echoes of Rumpole: Helena Kennedy QC

"are now told that they must not altogether disregard the particular characteristics of the defendant — if, for example, he or she is homosexual, or black, or a vagrant — but the reality of some people's lives is often incomprehensible to the court."

What may be expected of the reasonable vagrant is an odd subject for speculation, but this is the kind of issue on which courts inevitably exercise their imagination and knowledge of life. It would help, runs the message of this book, if men

suffered from an inherent defect which he is reluctantly compelled to spell out.

On racial questions, judges often commit themselves to curious generalisations for which there is no evidence. "This type of offence is far too prevalent among the Nigerian community." There may be something in the judge's mind here, but no firm evidence on which these generalisations are based is presented to the court. On this subject, Kennedy is saying what has been inadequately said before, and it is good for us.

What does she suggest we should do about it, other than clear our minds of can? She makes the case for expert evidence being more freely used, for example on the psychological effect of repeated domestic violence on a battered wife.

She makes the case (although less forcibly than Lord Devlin does in his brilliant essay in *The Judge*) for the value of a "perverse" verdict, when a jury directed to apply the law to the facts finds that when properly applied it does not square with justice.

She makes her real point with eloquence: "Justice is compromised because people

who are caught up in an already flawed legal process are often judged on grounds which have nothing whatsoever to do with the facts of the case. Those who are most susceptible are the young and the working-class, the immigrant, Irish, black, homosexual or female: when we look at the problems facing women, we should always keep these other groups in mind."

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ACCOUNTANCY

Rules fit to curb 'unfit' directors

Personal liability is seen as an empty threat, according to a study by Christina Williams and Andrew McGee

THE insolvency reforms of 1986 implemented a watered down version of the recommendations about incompetent directors, made by the Cork committee in 1982. Limited liability could be withdrawn from an individual retrospectively, if he were shown to have caused his company to trade wrongfully, and, prospectively, if he were found unfit to be concerned in managing a company.

This more creditor-orientated approach had to be reconciled with the government's promotion of the "enterprise culture", which encouraged virtually anyone to start their own business with the protection of limited liability. Incompetent directors, it was believed, might give way to a more "professional" director, yet the legislation encouraged nothing of the kind. There are still no entry or training requirements and discipline is by the threat of disqualification under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, a procedure supervised by the trade department, whose resources allow only limited commitment to this task.

Part of the problem stems from the judicial interpretation of the word "unfit". Mere incompetence will not suffice, only "total incompetence" or "reckless disregard", making the burden of proof onerous

and expensive. The Cork committee envisaged the disqualification and wrongful trading provisions working together. Wrongful trading, within the meaning of the Insolvency Act 1986, does not itself make directors unfit in the eyes of the courts.

The wrongful trading provision aims to set minimum standards of behaviour for directors, but the only inducement to behave is the threat of personal liability. The scarcity of reported cases and our research show this is widely regarded as an empty threat. Legislation did not address practical matters such as the costs of pursuing an action. Liquidators, funded by creditors, will not throw good money after bad without a strong case and may be hampered in constructing one by poor records. Much also depends on the availability of personal assets. In many instances, directors' guarantees will leave the company's bank with the lion's share.

One solution would be for directors to be regulated by a professional body, controlling entry requirements and continuing education. Banks lending to businesses usually require a good track record. Those who "qualify" in this way may not have to give personal guarantees for company borrowing. An "unqualified" director is granted loans



Watered down: the late Sir Kenneth Cork, who chaired the 1982 Cork committee

only if he trades without limited liability — so far as the bank is concerned — by giving a guarantee.

Another possibility might be to introduce a supervisory board, as there is in Germany and The Netherlands, for private companies. These boards should provide some check on the activities of directors, but their effectiveness depends on the energy and ability of those appointed. Directors who do not care ensure that members of their supervisory boards are of sim-

ilar disposition. There is also an argument for a minimum capital requirement for private companies. A company benefits where a director has to take a financial stake. Banks often involve directors in this way, through personal guarantees. This leads to another possible solution: prohibiting banks that lend to a company from taking security from a third party. This would force them to deal with the company on its own merits and capital base, which would be a cushion for all creditors.

Banks might claim they would be less inclined to finance smaller businesses. Yet lending is their business and they would simply reassess their criteria for small private firms. Insurance cover against wrongful trading might provide another check, if it were widely available. Insurers would probably require periodic "health checks", which would involve specialist advisers in the financial review of a company's business.

Many company directors will argue vehemently that the "enterprise culture" and oppose any suggestion that limited liability should be viewed as a privilege to be earned. Yet the most common cause of company failure in this recession is the domino effect of other companies collapsing without paying their debts. In the long run, more attention to directors' competence would surely be of benefit to all concerned. The authors' study, published as *Research Report 30* by ACCA, is available from 2 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF at £9.95.

JON ASHWORTH

Encountering an odd democracy

WATCHING the first public meeting of the English ICA's council last week you could see why the last internal constitutional report advocated its abolition. If you believed in conspiracy theory and thought that the council could rise collectively to a morning so dull and irrelevant that we would all pack our bags and never return to view their proceedings again, then you might be right.

Personally, I don't believe that. I suspect it has always been that dull. It says something for the dogged nature of the people who become elected to the council that the monthly meetings are still occurring.

The problem is in the petrified nature of the institute's democracy. Most members of council are elected through a district society system. Ostensibly, this means that the majority have fought to be there and have a great desire to influence the running of the institute and, by virtue of its size and dominance, of the UK profession itself. Sadly, this is not so. There are battles and contests to become elected. The London society's elections are notoriously difficult. Much of it depends on the pendulum of fashion. Some years, the electorate takes a swing at the supposed dominance of the large firms and elects small practitioners almost automatically. Other years, the pendulum swings the other way. This year, an MP who acts as adviser to Price Waterhouse, which normally would guarantee the election of every one-man band in north London, romped home. This year there were numerous candidates. Last year there were not enough to fill the vacancies. It is a very odd and unpredictable democracy. In some other areas, it does not really exist at all. The Liverpool district society, as far back as anyone can remember, has never had an actual election. Coincidentally, exactly the right number of candidates to fill the number of vacancies required emerge from the committee each year.

To prove that this is not necessarily a bad thing, Liverpool can boast a good and reforming past president. Arthur Green was a man who got things done. So it came as no surprise when he was appointed head of yet another committee to look into the constitution of the institute. The previous committee had looked into its "governance". That was deemed pretty revolutionary. Indeed, those reforms that the institute eventually got around to implementing have been extremely

successful, at least in raising membership interest. This was where the idea of faculties came from.

So Arthur Green's recommendations were expected with some anticipation last year. After all, not only had the ground been gone over before, but this time the chap in charge had a reputation for translating reports into actions.

Unfortunately for Mr Green, his working party recommended abolishing the council. Or rather, instead of having it meet ten times a year in the council chamber at the institute's London headquarters, it would meet only twice a year in a much enlarged form on a regional basis and act as a source of ideas rather than a debater and ratifier of decisions. A smaller executive would take on that function. This effectively meant the council's abolition. As the final decision on this matter

would be the council's, you can see why it has not come about. So the institute is stuck with its council, at least until it can think of another wheeze for getting rid of it. In recent years, the institute has strengthened its composition by co-opting members from the large firms and other areas that prove anathema to the voting constituents. This is why the membership includes people from the regulatory bodies and senior partners of the biggest firms, for example. But such people also learn early on how footing much of the business is. So they turn up only when there is something they consider to be important on the agenda. Few of them were

there for last week's meeting. Instead, a silent majority from the shares sit it out. They have had their travel expenses and the hotel. There is a good lunch to come. It is thoroughly enjoyable, a gathering of chums in the same business who are flattered by all the flummery.

Last week's meeting did have its decisive points. Individual members did advocate issues that were close to their hearts with an effectiveness and a passion. But they were isolated incidents.

It may be that being open to the press and the public will force change. At the moment, it looks more like a relic of the long gone days, for the Victorian profession. Days when immobile respectability acted as a cover for flamboyant business behaviour. All that seems to be left is the immobile respectability. The author is associate editor of *Accountancy* Age.



ROBERT BRUCE

Meeting of like minds

ROGER Lawson, vice-president of the English institute, was in fighting form during the first national conference, held in Bristol, for chartered accountants in business. The conference, which attracted 145 paying members for a three-day event, far more than the institute as a whole can muster for its annual jamboree, looks set to become a

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

fixture on the calendar. With more than 30,000 ICA members working in business, such a meeting of minds was overdue. Lawson, a director of 31, who joined luminaries such as Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of National Power, and Hugh Colburn, finance director of SmithKline Beecham, said: "Chartered accountants have consolidated their position as the pivotal role within this country's corporate and financial structures."

Noddy mobile

WHAT do Noddy and Big Ears have in common with Robert Maxwell? Answer: Price Waterhouse. Earlier this summer, Tony Lomas, one of several PW partners assigned

to the Maxwell administration, clinched the sale of Macdonald, publisher of the Noddy books, among other things, to America's Little, Brown. Noddy is unknown in America, however, and Little, Brown wanted nothing to do with him. Lomas sold the Noddy rights again to BBC Enterprises. To mark the signing, his firm wheeled out a red and yellow Noddy car — registration "PW1".

JON ASHWORTH

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GOLF

Spence says team without Faldo presents challenge

By Mitchell Platt
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JAMIE Spence will launch his international career today in the belief that England can win the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews despite the absence of Nick Faldo.

Spence could not have chosen a more historic or romantic setting for his debut than the home of golf, and he is determined to demonstrate, at the age of 29, that he has a long-term future in the international arena.

"I didn't play for my country as an amateur, and it's taken me seven years as a professional to do so," Spence said. "I'm obviously very excited."

"I know a lot of people are convinced that without Nick we'll struggle. I prefer to think that without him we've got something to prove. We want to show that England can win even without the No. 1 player in the world."

Spence will carry the additional pressure of being captain, even though his teammates, Steven Richardson and David Gifford, are both above him in the Sony world rankings.

Spence has, however, advanced his claims for a place in Europe's team for the Ryder Cup next year by winning the European Masters. "My ambition is to be in the team," he said.

"I would hope one day to challenge for an Open Championship, but I am realistic enough to think that the Ryder Cup is a more sensible target right now. I think I can be one of the best 12 players in Europe."

A blustery wind whipped off St Andrews Bay and across the Old Course, putting the thermometer into free fall. Sam Soper, Boonchu Ruangkit and Thaworn Wirachant, of Thailand, looked to the skies for relief, but the weather forecast suggests that they might find the nearby westerly rain a more likely saviour.

Sandy Lyle, wearing two cashmere and his water-proof, appeared to be in his element. "The weather will be

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	370	4	10	342	4
2	411	4	11	172	3
3	370	4	12	210	3
4	463	4	13	429	4
5	354	4	14	357	4
6	418	4	15	418	4
7	372	4	16	382	4
8	178	3	17	461	4
9	355	4	18	344	4

Out 3,501 36 In 3,432 36
Total yardage: 6,933 Par: 72

DRAW (sweded positions in brackets): Group 1: United States (1), Ireland (2), New Zealand, Korea, Group 2: Spain (3), England (4), Italy, Japan, Group 3: Scotland (5), Sweden (6), Canada, France, Group 4: Australia (7), South Africa (8), Germany, Thailand, Denmark, Group 5: v winner Group 2, v winner Group 3, v winner Group 4. First to be played on Sunday.

BETTING (Cont): 15-8: United States, 9-2: Australia, 5-1: Scotland, 7-1: Sweden, Spain, England, 16-1: South Africa, 20-1: Ireland, 40-1: New Zealand, 50-1: Germany, 60-1: Italy, 100-1: Canada, Japan, 150-1: France, 1,500-1: Korea, 2,500-1: Thailand.

a big factor here this week," he said. "The prettiest of swings will be torn to pieces."

Lyle admitted that his swing came apart in Hamburg last week, where he missed the cut. "I didn't play that clever," he said. "It has been that kind of year for me, although I did at least win the Italian Open."

"I'm still puzzled that Nick isn't here for England, but I must admit that I'm amazed by his ability to keep going this year. He seems to retain that fiery determination to keep scoring those 65s. I'm just smouldering at the moment."

Lyle is waiting to learn if his



Spence: England captain

offer to purchase a 16-bed room hotel, which he wants to convert into a house, in Biggar, south of Edinburgh, has been accepted.

Scotland will begin today with a match against Canada in group three, in which their other opponents are Sweden, the defending champions, and France. England play Japan in group two, their other rivals being Spain and Italy.

The new round-robin format, with all 16 teams certain of surviving through to Saturday, will offer more golf for the spectators and provide less chance of an upset. Even so, only the winners of each group will advance to the semi-finals on Sunday, and there will be little room for error.

Greg Norman, who withdrew from the World Match Play Championship last week with a neck injury, is fully fit to lead Australia in group four. They begin with a match against Germany, and also have South Africa and Thailand to contend with.

The United States will start the favourites, with the dream team of Fred Couples, the Masters champion, Tom Kite, US Open champion, and Davis Love III, the US Players champion.

Kite recalled that when he first played at St Andrews in 1971 it was in the Walker Cup. "We had an excellent team then and we got beat," he said.

He was also a member of the United States Dunhill Cup team that was beaten in the first round by France in 1990.

The United States, however, have correctly been seeded No. 1 and they will begin in group one against New Zealand.

Christy O'Connor is upset that Ireland, twice winners, have been drawn No. 8, because it means they are also in group one, as are Korea.

Laura Davies, with 666,333, has finished leading money-winner on the women's European Tour, for a record third time. The Rookie of the Year was Sandrine Mendiburu, of France.

Record-hunters lured by waters that promise to produce big



Angling for the big one: Steve Lindsell, left, and Mick Toomer prepare to try their luck at Llandegfodd, which has produced the record pike

Fishermen with a line on leviathans

Fishermen begin their quest for specimen pike in the autumn.

This season, with so many new waters available, the British

record appears to be ready for the catching, Brian Clarke reports

The members of Britain's small army of pike specimen hunters will never have a better chance of writing their way into angling history than over the next few weeks. Even on a conservative view, there has to be a great possibility that the record for the species will be broken.

The prospects for the pike men have gradually been transformed in recent years, with the increasing readiness of the owners of large trout fisheries to allow pike fishing in the autumn, when the trout season has wound down. This year, squeezed by recession and desperate for revenue, more trout waters than ever before—including some of the most famous—will be available to those willing to pay up to £80 a day for a boat to fish from and the chance of glory.

The most renowned water of all, Llandegfodd, Reservoir, near Pontypool, is already being fished by pike anglers and will remain available to them every Monday and Tuesday until November 3. Other

well-known waters in the South and the Midlands will be open between now and early December.

It was on Llandegfodd in 1989 that Gareth Edwards, one of Wales's finest trout union players, made his name in angling. Edwards, who is a fanatic fisherman, landed a pike weighing 45lb 6oz, breaking the record for the species in England and Wales. That fish supported what many had been saying for years, that the pike record was the most likely of all the main marks to be significantly improved and that the waters most likely to produce the leviathans were large reservoirs holding trout.

To attain great size, which means to grow to 30lb and more, a pike needs constant access to a plentiful supply of smaller fish on which to prey. Trout, with their high fat content, are the richest of all freshwater fish available to pike and, thanks to the boom in stillwater trout fishing over the past 30 years, many more trout fisheries have opened.

Even the largest public supply reservoirs have long been stocked with trout to provide an angling amenity and to help bring in revenue. As the trout are caught, others are regularly introduced, so that stock levels are maintained and anglers have an incentive to come back to the waters. Where better to look for whopping pike, the specimen hunters argued, than lakes in

which the pike are not fished for and yet are served up with conveyor-belts of their most fattening food?

It was a theory that gradually gained ground thanks to the inadvertent help of trout specimen anglers. Some trout anglers ignore run-of-the-mill fish and specialise in the capture of the huge trout that turn carnal and live in the depths. Techniques designed to catch these trout proved capable of tamping the pike that lived there too, and one by one, they came.

Over time, the pressure for access to trout lakes was increased on those who controlled them by the pike angling lobby; and over time, despite the protests of some in the trout fishing community, access was conceded.

Amazing results—in the most amazing in recorded pike-angling history—came when Llandegfodd was first opened to pike anglers in 1988. At a time when the pike record stood at 44lb 14oz, and when only half a dozen fish over 40lb had been authenticated in the previous 100 years, Llandegfodd, in a few days, produced two pike over 44lb, two further over 40lb, two more at 35lb and several between 30 and 35lb.

When Edwards's fish came on the only occasion the lake was fished the following year, it simply seemed to be part of an inevitable progression.

It is as a consequence of all this that the pike record is now pursued with so much vigour. The focus is not only on Llandegfodd, even though, given its remarkable past, that is where most attention will naturally remain.

Bough Beech reservoir, in Kent, is certain to produce a vast pike this year, and just possibly a record. When this trout water was first fished last winter, it produced one pike of 40lb (caught twice), one of 39lb and 22 others over 30lb. Most of its 300 acres will be able to be covered by the 18 boats that will be on it between October 26 and December 3. Hopes are understandably high.

Specimen hunters in the Midlands will be spoiled for choice. Angling Water plans to open the vast Rutland Water in Cambridgeshire from October 26 to November 8; Grafton Water is to be opened from October 26 to November 1; Pitsford reservoir, which was opened for the first time last year, will be available from October 31 to November 15; and Ravenshorpe will be available for the first time on December 4 and 5.

None of this, of course, is to suggest that a record will come easily, or with certainty. Anglers at Rutland and Grafton face the special problem of finding a big fish—the lakes are 3,000 acres and 1,600 acres respectively and the one they are looking for

can be anywhere in them. Also, many fisheries are routinely netted for big pike in an effort to reduce predation on trout and so, while these waters are capable of producing big fish and while some big fish may remain, they will not be present in vast numbers.

At the Midlands waters and at Llandegfodd—though not at Bough Beech—fishing for pike is being confined to the use of artificial spinners, which is likely to reduce further the chances of the biggest fish being taken.

Even though Edwards took his magnificent pike on such a lure, spinners are more likely to attract small and medium-sized fish than those of which legends are made.

There is a physiological factor at work, as well. All big pike are females and most of the biggest fish of the past—including Edwards's record—have been taken late in the season when the fish have been carrying several pounds of eggs.

None of the waters in question are to allow fishing in February and March, when the pike will be nesting their heads; because preparations will by then be under way for the new trout season.

Any balanced view of the prospects for the next few weeks has to take these factors into account. A record catch is out there somewhere but it will not be found and caught easily, even though the odds this year are better than ever before.

That is a caution that will deter nobody, and quite rightly so.

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Ladbroke's suspend Champion betting

By MICHAEL SEELY

LADBROKES yesterday suspended their betting on the Dubai Champion Stakes despite assurances from Peter Chappell-Hyatt that all is well with Rodrigo De Triunfo.

"Together with Lahib, the pair dominate the race to such an extent that we don't want to go on betting until we see how things stand tomorrow," said John Thompson, the London firm's ante-post manager.

Attempting to quash the adverse rumours, the trainer issued a statement from Manton. "We had a scare last night when we thought the trouble had flared up again."

But the horse was all right after he'd worked this morning and we'll do a bit more with him tomorrow."

On Monday, Chappell-Hyatt had reported that Robert Sangster's dual 2,000 Guineas winner had developed a spine (a protruding growth of bone) on his off-side and that the colt had missed two days' work. However, the trainer had added that, after a course of swimming and laser treatment, the three-year-old was back on target.

When the bookmakers started their operations on Tuesday morning, a flood of money nationwide had seen Lahib's price cut from 2-1 to

5-4 favourite. However, this was probably because the punters considered John Dunlop's winner of the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes to be overpriced.

Of the big three bookmakers, now offer 7-4 against Rodrigo De Triunfo, with a run. Hills alone retains their original price with Lahib at 5-4 and his chief market rival at 7-4.

Explaining their thinking, Don Payne, of Hills, said: "We're quite convinced that Rodrigo is all right. All the money for Lahib came the morning we started betting and there hasn't been a penny for him while all these rumours have been flying around. That has to be significant."

On the Cesarewitch front, it was announced yesterday that Willie Carson will attempt to win the second leg of the autumn double for the fourth time in the past 11 years on Baboon, who yesterday became Hills's 7-1 joint favourite with Vintage Crop.

Confiding the five-year-old gelding's well-being, David Morley said: "He was desperately unlucky not to win the Northumberland Plate. Our only worry is that in soft going the others come back to him."

Going good to firm (good in places)

2.10 (2m 110yd hds) 1. Valiant Warrior (P. Niven, 11-4) 2. One Man (16-1) 3. Rialto Ark (100-30) 11 ran. 5. 11. M. Hammett. Time: 2:33.50. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

2.40 (2m 81yd) 1. Gale Agate (C. Grant, 5-1) 2. New Ne Goshaw (20-1) 3. Howe Street (8-1). Atmagg 5-2 fav. 8 ran. 5. 11. W. Stephens. Time: 2:35.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

3.10 (2m 81yd) 1. Mullator (P. Cornwell, 2-1) 2. Ladybird (16-1) 3. Gaudin (16-1). 11 ran. 12. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:36.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

3.40 (2m 81yd) 1. Fighting Words (D. Murphy, 5-1) 2. Valiant Boy (3-1) 3. Sir Peter (16-1). Atmagg 5-2 fav. 8 ran. 5. 11. W. Stephens. Time: 2:37.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

4.10 (2m 110yd hds) 1. Mary Master (G. Atmagg, 5-2) 2. Valiant Hill (8-2) 3. Tom Troubadour (16-1). 7 ran. 12. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:38.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

4.40 (2m 110yd) 1. Able Player (D. Bentley, 4-1) 2. Daisy Girl (8-1) 3. Run Up The Flag (16-1). 12 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:39.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

5.10 (2m 110yd) 1. Lady Dundee (P. Eddley, 5-2) 2. Cornhill Bay (5-1) 3. Reluctant (16-1). 12 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:40.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

5.40 (2m 110yd) 1. Specified (P. Eddley, 2-1) 2. Miss Breda (10-1) 3. Sacred Bay (11-4). 21 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:41.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

6.10 (2m 110yd) 1. Tipping Tim (C. Llewellyn, 4-1) 2. Another Coral (R. Durrant, 7-1) 3. T. P. P. (16-1). 16 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:42.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

6.40 (2m 110yd) 1. SUNBEAM (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Handover (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Faint Economy (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:43.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

7.10 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:44.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

7.40 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:45.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

8.10 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:46.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

8.40 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:47.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

9.10 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:48.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

9.40 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:49.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

10.10 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:50.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

10.40 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:51.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

11.10 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:52.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

11.40 (2m 110yd) 1. NEWTON POINT (R. Durrant, 5-1) 2. Maresman (R. Durrant, 5-1) 3. Chalky (R. Durrant, 5-1). 11 ran. 14. 11. M. Tompkins. Time: 2:53.00. £1.50, £3.40, £2.40. DF: £22.50, £1.70, £2.80. DP: £5.00. CSF: £21.00.

England Under-21 brushed aside

McMenemy quick to pay tribute to Norway's class act

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND were swept aside 2-0 by Norway in the European under-21 championship at Peterborough on Tuesday night.

Lawrie McMenemy, the manager, said: "It was a disappointing result but the Norwegians were mentally and physically tough and well organised. You could see they had played together for some time. They showed excellent technique."

England never recovered from a second-minute goal by Frank Strandli, with Alf Inge Haland adding another in the 67th minute.

In between, England laboured to make any impression. Steve McManaman and Steve Watson produced their best efforts from headers.

Norway, their team made up mainly of part-time players, have now gone nine matches without defeat and are almost certain to qualify for the European tournament quarter-finals after winning their first four matches.

Scotland Under-21 fought out a drab goalless draw with Portugal at McDiarmid Park.

"Our performance was patchy," Craig Brown, their coach, said. "Frankly, they were the better team technically. We were always aware of their quality and I can only emphasise we were five players short of our best line-up."

Scotland lacked creativity and barely managed a decent effort on goal. Portugal, by contrast, had the opportunities but were let down by weak finishing and a goalkeeping error from Kevin Bain.

"Having lost in Switzerland last month, it was important to get off the mark," Brown said. "In view of the calibre of the opposition and our depleted squad, a point is a good start."

After reaching the semi-finals of the championship last year, it has been a poor start by the class of '92.

"Before the season began, we thought this group was as good as the previous one," Brown said.

"We haven't showed it yet but I'm sure there is more to come. Portugal didn't see us at our best."

"I feel we can go there with a stronger side and get at least another point."

Lee Power, the Norwich City forward, travelled thousands of miles back and forth across Europe to play in the Republic of Ireland's under-21 match against Denmark, which they lost 3-2.

He was then told by the manager, Maurice Setters: "It's time you showed more responsibility."

Power's stylish front-running showed why he is being groomed as the next graduate to Jack Charlton's senior squad.

He had flown in from Romania, via London, after a weekend trip to Bucharest with Norwich but still kept the Denmark defence at full stretch and missed a couple of self-created half-chances by inches.

Yet Setters, the uncompromising former Manchester United and West Bromwich Albion wing half, was not satisfied. "He should be a man

among boys out there at this level and we know he's got the ability to make it big," he said.

"But I've told him he's got to start taking more responsibility, take things by the scruff of the neck and really show what he can do. When that happens, he'll be in with a chance of getting into the senior group."

Power could first do with establishing a regular place in the Norwich side and, after two goals in two starts earlier this season, his opportunity might come again at home to Queens Park Rangers on Saturday, especially after Norwich's 7-1 defeat at Blackburn Rovers 11 days ago.

Mark Dempsey, of Gillingham, gave Ireland a fifth-minute lead but Jesper Kristensen soon equalised direct from a corner. Peter Moller added two more goals before Derek McGrath, of Shamrock Rovers, scored near the end.

Setters, who feared Denmark might overwhelm his inexperienced side, felt much happier about competing in a tough group that also includes Spain and Germany.

"We gave Denmark goals with naive mistakes at the back but I suppose we can only learn from them," he said.

"We certainly didn't deserve to lose and it will be interesting to see how much we can improve in a year before the Danes come to Dublin."

"I think we will beat them then because the raw material is there and all these boys lack is a bit of time and a bit of experience."



Near miss: McManaman went close with a header in England Under-21's 2-0 defeat

Football show demonstrates finishing touch

BY HENRY KELLY

THE BBC2 football "feature", *Standing Room Only*, finished its first run with a clever idea on Monday evening: it went to Norway for a look around in advance of the World Cup qualifier against England at Wembley last night. The television team made a good job of its encounter with the Norwegians and their culture.

Norway, with a population of about four million, manages to support a full-time professor of football. Norwegian male footballers are not at all ashamed or bothered to be coached by women, take advice from them and watch them to see if there is anything they can learn.

Egil Olsen, the professor in question, seemed to me to present the acceptable face of science as applied to sport. He was soft-spoken, though tough. He also appeared to have persuaded sportsmen in one discipline to understand what they could learn from those in another. Norwegian footballers have watched and practised with skiers to improve balance and fitness. I wonder when a British team in any sport last did something similar?

Overall, as I wrote a few weeks ago, *Standing Room Only* has been a success and well worth doing again. Among the football supporters of my acquaintance, it is considered compulsory viewing. I'm not sure about all its merry quips but generally the script is tight and clear and the waspish one-liners of Stan Hey are much in evidence.

The item on how much our police make per annum from patrolling inside football grounds was a revelation to me. Chelsea, for example, have to fork out more than £257,000 every season. Seems a lot.

The best item, however, in *Standing Room Only* was the interview with, and clips from, the career of the great Portuguese footballer, Eusebio. What a gentleman. Commentary over some of his greater moments on the pitch noted that he always acknowledged an opponent's skill. In one instance, we saw an almost certain goal frustrated by a great piece of goalkeeping. Eusebio's reaction was to help the goalkeeper to his

feet, shake his hand and pat him on the back, gestures which the crowd and the other team acknowledged as the forward ran back to his place. How different to today. Perhaps if more players on the field recognised and acknowledged the skills of others, there would be less violence on and off the pitch.

The best bit of the interview came when we were shown Eusebio talking to his country's president at the unveiling of a statue of the footballer. The interviewer wondered what the two men had said to each other. "President Soares told me I had a street named after me in Lisbon and now a statue. Two things, he told me, which he never had, even as president."

A cres of rain forests have been cut down to provide the newsprint necessary to print the words written about the obstacle at Wembley which, during the Horse of the Year Show, resulted in the death of a horse.

The event was described as a "tragedy". It was not. It is not a tragedy when an animal gets killed. The word should only apply to human suffering. This is not to belittle the suffering of animals. It is simply to put it in its place.

The argument as to whether the bank should have been there or not is a waste of time. Before the event, not a single senior rider in the competition seemed unduly bothered by it. The calls for the entire sport to be reassessed following one incident are as deaf as a door. It would be if repeated in support of a ban on National Hunt racing because horses, very occasionally, are killed.

There are too many instances in Britain when the speed with which what should be human emotions are transferred to animals, as if by right, is alarming. Probably, it comes from the same mentality that will allow dogs to wander around pubs as they like but at best will have one dark, smelly room reserved for children.

GYMNASTICS

Pressure mounts to get rid of the boring bits

COMPULSORY exercises could be dropped from the next Olympic Games as a result of pressure from the International Olympic Committee (Peter Aykroyd writes).

Competitors tackle both compulsory and free exercises in the opening team competition. The combined results establish ranking by nation, and finalists for the subsequent individual finals.

The team event has been attacked, not only by the IOC but also by many administrators for not being visually competitive, and for taking too much space and time, and for often being boring because of the large number of gymnasts performing the same routine on pommel horse.

Yuri Titov, the president of the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique, the world governing body said: "To survive in the Olympic programme, we must take all criticism very seriously. We will have to find solutions in the very near future."

Behind the move for change is the growing commercial necessity to make the sport more attractive to the public, media and sponsors. The federation is already acting. There were no compulsory routines at the Paris world championships earlier this year, nor will there be any in Birmingham next April.

Supporters of compulsory exercises contend that such routines impose a discipline on each performer which is a vital base for style and creativity in free exercises.

John Atkinson, the technical director of the British Amateur Gymnastics Association, said yesterday: "The gymnasts will suffer if too much is given up to audience presentation."

Those concerned with team reform may well study the spectacular knockout team event developed by rhythmic gymnasts, the younger branch of the sport. This popular programme, based on collective achievement, generates high enthusiasm in its spectators.

Speedie placed on transfer-list

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTHAMPTON have put David Speedie on the transfer list. Less than three months after he joined them, Speedie, 32, a former Scotland international, is valued at around £400,000. The forward joined Southampton at the end of July as part of the deal that took Alan Shearer to Blackburn Rovers.

Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, said he wanted Speedie to live locally but the player was unwilling to move from his Coventry home.

"It has not worked out for the lad," Branfoot said. "We had a perfectly friendly chat and agreed that it is better to part company now instead of letting things drag on."

"The main problem is that David does not want to uproot his family from their home in the Midlands and I really want him permanently down here at Southampton."

"It has turned into a muddle

for David because he is staying at Southampton a couple of nights a week, driving down from the Midlands a couple of days a week, and generally leading an unsettled and tiring life because of that."

"In my opinion, the situation was getting him down and his better for both the club and David to take positive action now. He's a smashing little player and I will do everything I can to help him find another club quickly."

Speedie said: "I have not asked for a transfer but I understand the situation and I accept the club's decision."

Another unsettled player, Chris Kamara, has been put on Luton Town's transfer list at his own request a year after a £125,000 move from Leeds United.

"My family home is in Yorkshire and they don't want to move and it is not easy playing for Luton when home is so far away," he said.

"The other reason is that manager David Pleat loves young players. He is building a team for the future and I think will have a good side in a couple of years. But I would like to join a club challenging for honours this season."

Kamara began his career at Portsmouth and has also played for Swindon Town, amassing over 700 games.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said yesterday that he would not rush Lee Sharpe, the England winger, back into the first team.

On Saturday, Sharpe played his first game since contracting viral meningitis in April and, on Tuesday night, lasted more than an hour in the United reserves during their 2-0 defeat by Chester City.

Ferguson said that Sharpe will play the A team at the weekend and then the reserves next week. "We want to be

Ukrainian on cup target for Russia

RUSSIA scored a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Iceland in their World Cup debut yesterday. The solitary goal came from the former Ukrainian international forward, Sergei Yuran, who was playing for Russia because he felt his former side had an uncertain future.

Yuran picked up a pass in the penalty area in the 64th minute, turned and stabbed the ball home from 12 metres. Russia dominated the European group five match but were often frustrated by the determined Icelandic defence and the goalkeeper, Birgir Kristinnsson.

Russia succeeded the Soviet Union in the qualifying competition after the communist superpower collapsed last year.

Three Burundi players slipped away during a stopover in Paris after their team lost 3-1 to Algeria in a World Cup qualifier on Friday. Ed-

mond Murrywisi, the team manager, said yesterday that the players were hoping to join European clubs.

The brother of one of the players, Jean-Jacques Mbuyu, plays in the Belgian third division. The three, members of the Burundi club, Vitalo, declined to join teammates for a meal on the pretext that they were not hungry, and then disappeared.

The Ivory Coast attempt to emulate Cameroon in Riyadh today when they play Argentina in the semi-final of the Intercontinental Champions' Cup. Cameroon beat the defending champions 1-0 in the opening match of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

Ivory Coast warmed up for the tournament, which also features Saudi Arabia and the United States, by overwhelming Botswana 6-0 at home on Sunday in a World Cup qualifier. Abdoulaye Traore scored a hat-trick. (Agencies)

Sunderland plan move to new ground

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SUNDERLAND intend to be playing at England's biggest club football stadium by the beginning of the 1994-5 season. The first division club has the necessary financial backing and planning permission to proceed with a £120 million development to the north of the city.

Second only to Wembley in size, the 48,000-capacity all-seater ground would be built on a 120-acre site at Washington which Sunderland have taken up an option to buy. Located close to the main A19 road and the Nissan car plant, the development would incorporate parking for 12,000 cars and 2,000 coaches, leisure facilities, a multi-screen cinema, specialist shops, a hotel and an exhibition centre.

Its development is dependent on a referendum among Sunderland supporters before Christmas which will determine whether they want the club to leave Roker Park, its home for 94 years.

Bob Murray, the Sunderland chairman, and his board are confident that the supporters will vote to move because the maximum capacity at a redeveloped Roker Park would be only 27,000, involving a cost of £20 million.

While the new complex would take three years to complete, the playing area could be ready by August 1994.

Such a ground would become a favourite to host European championship matches in the north-east region when England host the competition in 1996.

John Wood, a Sunderland director, said that finance did not pose a problem. "Funding will be raised entirely from the private and public sectors, including money from the EC. It will not cost the club a penny," he said. The project would also create 2,000 permanent jobs.

Many clubs' hopes of moving to such a new stadium have been dashed at the planning permission stage, but the enthusiasm of Sunderland city council for its decision to release green-belt land for the new ground. Providing the referendum result is positive, work is scheduled to begin next year.

□ **Johannesburg.** Sixteen homeless children from South Africa have been invited to England by John Fashanu,

the Wimbledon forward. The 16, who attend a school and shelter for homeless children, began training with a professional coach late last year after attending a football clinic given by Fashanu in Johannesburg.

Fashanu has arranged for them to visit Wimbledon and Crystal Palace next February, for training and matches against the clubs' junior sides. Graham Taylor, the England manager, has invited the youngsters to watch England play San Marino at Wembley on February 17.

Andre de Villiers, a spokesman for one of the boys' sponsors, said: "It's given them something to live for. A few of them show a lot of talent, and if one or two should play in a major league, it will be a bonus." (AFP)

HOCKEY

Wales push for victory

WALES and Scotland must win their matches today to enhance their chances of reaching the final of the Intercontinental Cup qualifying tournament in Olten, Switzerland, on Sunday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Wales have already qualified for the semi-finals and lead their group on goal difference from Switzerland. For them to retain the position, they must avoid defeat when the teams meet today.

If they do, they would almost certainly keep clear of Belgium — a team they have

lost to twice recently — in the semi-finals on Saturday. Scotland have yet to qualify for the last four but, should they manage to, will probably meet Wales.

Their final group match is with Denmark, who are proping up the group after two rounds. A repeat of Scotland's form on the opening day, when they beat Italy 4-0, would take them through to the knockout stages as runners-up in their group to Belgium.

MATCHES TODAY: Group A: Scotland v Denmark, Italy v Belgium. Group B: Austria v Czechoslovakia, Wales v Switzerland.

Agassi's stern Paris match

Andre Agassi, the Wimbledon tennis champion, became the ninth of the world's top ten players to commit himself to the £1.25 million Paris Open, which begins on November 2, when he accepted a wild-card entry yesterday.

Delta force

Motor rallying: Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, in a Lancia Delta, led his Italian team-mate, Andrea Aghini, by 12 seconds as the San Remo

SPORT IN BRIEF

Boatman sets sail

Golf: Liz Boatman, who captained Britain and Ireland's women amateurs to victory in the Curtis Cup in June, has been reappointed for the defence of the trophy in Chattanooga on July 30 and 31, 1994.

□ **Ita Butler** has been retained as captain for Britain and Ireland's defence of the Vagliano Trophy against the Continent of Europe in France on September 17 and 18 next year.

Ring of alarm

Boxing: An enquiry is to be held into last week's Welsh super-featherweight title bout in Barry between Steve Robinson and Eddie Lloyd, which was called off just hours before it was scheduled to take place when Robinson's brain-scan was found to be out of date.

Waddell dies

Football: Willie Waddell, the former Scotland winger, who managed the Rangers side that won the 1972 European Cup Winners' Cup, has died of a heart attack. He was 71.

SQUASH

Le Moignan falls to Irish fightback

Vancouver: Rebecca O'Callaghan celebrated her hundredth appearance for Ireland with a surprise 1-9, 1-9, 9-4, 10-9, 9-2 first-string win over Martine Le Moignan, the world No. 2, in the qualifying rounds of the women's world team championship (Colin McQuillan writes).

Trailing 2-0 and 4-0 after 15 minutes, O'Callaghan seized on three successive errors from the tall left-handed Channel Islander, playing for England, to turn the rubber around with patient but aggressive rallying.

Lisa Opie and Sue Wright ensured quarter-final qualification with almost routine half-hour wins over Brona Ringland and Jill McCahey. With Cassandra Jackman also in the England squad, Le Moignan's increasingly despondent performance and failure to capitalise on four match balls in the fourth game may have convinced her to reserve status in the closing stages of England's defence of the title against New Zealand and Australia this weekend.

"Lisa and Sue played well,

and Martine played very well for two games and a bit," Alex Cowie, the England coach, said. "It certainly complicates my thinking."

O'Callaghan's effort will provide some personal satisfaction from an otherwise unrewarding championship which will almost certainly relegate Ireland to the second division.

With South Africa looking the more likely for fifth place in pool C in their first involvement in the championship, Scotland in pool D may be seventh at best.

John 10/15/92

BBC1

- 6.00** *Confax* (58318) **6.30** *Breakfast News* (27014931)
9.05 *Kilroy*. Robyn Kilroy-Calkins chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (6114660) **9.45** *The Rose King Show*. Competitions and challenges game show (6224199)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (5231349) **10.05** *Playdays*. For the very young (5756339)
10.30 *Good Morning*... with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s). With *News* (Cesfax), regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (77912660)
12.15 *Pebble Mill*. Among Alan Titchmarsh's guests is the singer Dionne Warwick (s) (225288) **12.55** *Regional News* and weather (5231349)
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hutton. (Cesfax) Weather (81196)
1.30 *Neighbours*. (Cesfax) (s) (6090047) **1.50** *Going for Gold*. General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The questionmaster is Henry Kelly (s) (6090485)
2.15 *Film: House of Secrets* (1958). Starring Michael Craig. Thriller about a merchant seaman who because of his likeness to a well known criminal, is hired by Interpol to infiltrate a gang of French counterfeiters who are planning to flood Britain with forged fivers. Directed by Guy Green (521389)
3.50 *Puppydog Tales*. The adventures of four dogs, narrated by Victoria Wood (s) (2349671) **3.55** *Noddy*. Animation (s) (6782738) **4.10** *Star Pets*. Peter Simon continues his search for the Star Pet of 1992 (2718026) **4.20** *Get Your Own Back*. Slespiček game show (s) (2740083) **4.35** *Uncle Jack and the Dark Side of the Moon*. Episode three of the six-part children's comedy drama. (Cesfax) (s) (2745673)
5.00 *Newsround* (5451825) **5.05** *Blue Peter*. John Leslie tells rally-cars for the first time. (Cesfax) (s) (4577641)
5.35 *Neighbours*. (s) (Cesfax) (s) (815641). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey (Cesfax) Weather (844)
6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (196). Northern Ireland: Neighbours **7.00** *Top of the Pops* introduced by Mark Franklin (7919)
7.30 *EastEnders*. (Cesfax) (s) (680)
8.00 *As Time Goes By*. Romantic comedy starring Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer (s). (Cesfax) (s) (6009)
8.30 *Waiting For God*. Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole star as the aging agitators causing comic havoc in a retirement home. (Cesfax) (s) (8844)
9.00 *Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Conservative party (5231349)
9.05 *News* with Michael Burk. (Cesfax) Regional news and weather (91022)
9.35 *Crimewatch UK* presented by Nick Roas and Sue Cook. Among the cases in which the police would like help from the public are the murder of 15-year-old Helen Gome, found strangled by wedding guests on August 1, and a number of attacks, including two rapes, in the Milton Keynes area which the police believe are the work of the same man. (Cesfax) (426931)



Prisoners: Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie (10.20pm)

- 10.20** *One Foot in the Grave*. An unusually optimistic Victor (Richard Wilson) soon reverts to normal when he and his long-suffering wife Margaret (Annette Crosbie) are trapped in the garden shed for more than three hours by a swarm of bees (s). (Cesfax) (237777)
10.50 *Question Time* presented by Peter Sissons. Facing the questions this week are three new MPs — Judith Chaplin (Conservative), Janet Anderson (Labour) and Liz Lynne (Liberal Democrat) — and Sir Bernard Ingham (102134)
11.00 *Crimewatch UK Update* (225554)
12.00 *Channel Hopping*. Alex Taylor explores job prospects in Frankfurt (74142) **12.30am *Weather* (6125627)
12.35 *Film: Second Chance* (1953). Thriller starring Robert Mitchum and Jack Palance, directed by Rudolph Maté (3015697)
1.55 *The Road to the White House*. Ends at 3.35 of the presidential candidates' debate (988223). Ends at 3.35**

BBC2

- 8.00** *Breakfast News* (4260889)
8.15 *Past and Present Preserved*. A visit to the Zuercher Museum in the Netherlands (s) (425381) **8.30** *A Summer Journey*. The Kennet and Avon Canal. Angela Ripston as at Bradford-on-Avon's once-a-year canal boat parade (s) (98554)
9.00 *Daytime On Two*. Educational programmes
9.20 *News and weather* (5134028) **2.05** *You and Me* (s) (2203647)
2.15 *International Golf*. The Alfred Dunhill Cup from St Andrews, Scotland, Australia and the United States are among the 18 teams competing in this round robin competition. The winners of the four groups go through to the semi-finals on Sunday morning (Cesfax), regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (3149580)
5.00 *From the Edge*. Bi-monthly topical magazine with reports on the arts, political and news scenes from disabled reporters (8467)
5.30 *Food and Drink Special: A Cook's Tour of Central Europe*. Antonio Carluccio in Hungary and Czechoslovakia (s) (573)
6.00 *Film: The Million Pound Note* (1954) starring Gregory Peck. Based on Joseph Conrad's novel, a penniless American in London who is given a million-pound note on condition that he lives on it for a month without spending it. Directed by Ronald Neame (6768)
7.30 *First Steps in the Unlikely Event*... Michael Delahaye reports on the safety of the Channel Tunnel through which, this time next year, perhaps, thousands of motorists will be travelling. Northern Ireland: Road 92: Wales: Dad's Army: East: Matter of Fact: Midlands: Midlands Report: North: North-east and North-west: Close Up: North: South: Southern Eye: South-west: Close Up, West: Close Up West (55)
8.00 *A Cook's Tour of France*. Mireille Johnston samples food from Brittany. (Cesfax) (s) (7978)
8.30 *Top Gear*. Jeremy Clarkson tests the new Rover 800 coupe and Chris Goffey goes racing at Brands Hatch in a VW Beetle (6486)
9.00 *Bottom*. Smutty comedy series written by and starring Adrian Edmondson and Rik Mayall. (Cesfax) (s) (1912)



On the evangelical roadshow: Chalkie and Pethers (3.30pm)

- 9.30** *Present Perfect: Don't Mess With God*.
 ● **CHOICE**: Steve Chalkie and Dennis Pethers are energetic young Baptist ministers who run the Oasis Trust, an evangelical mission to spread the word of God to young people. Starting from the premise that Christianity is often seen as stuffy and boring, they try to put across the message in a language that their youthful audiences can understand. This means guitars and pop videos and sermonettes built around such popular icons as Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley. Peter Gordon's film follows Chalkie and Pethers as they take their roadshow, including a 120,000 video walk, to seek converts in Slough, Sunderland and Solihull. Their enthusiasm is undeniable and their following is impressive. But perhaps unfairly, since we hear that the Oasis Trust works among the homeless, the film gives the impression of a movement wrapped up in its own world and detached from the real one (s) (23393)
10.30 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Conservative party (295028)
10.35 *Newsnight* with Jeremy Paxman (344263)
11.20 *The Late Show*. American magazine (284592)
11.55 *Later With Jools Holland*. The guests are k.d. lang, Dwight Yoakam, Loudon Wainwright III and the Rockingbirds (s)
12.35am *Weather* (504550). Ends at 12.40
3.00 *BBC Select: Royal College of Nursing Update* (59429). Ends at 4.00

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ITV

- 6.00** *TV-am* (5976738)
9.25 *Keynotes*. Music quiz hosted by Aislinn Davell (s) (1958757) **9.55** *Thames News* (7595047)
10.00 *The Times*... The Pledge... Topical discussion (s) (338991)
10.55 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (2123776)
12.10 *The Riddlers*. Puppets in (7032080)
12.30 *Lunchtime News* with Nicholas Owen and Song Ruesler. (Oracle) **12.50** *Weather* (6730047) **1.05** *Thames News* (4255068)
1.15 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (199888)
1.45 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series in the Australian outback (s) (545323)
2.15 *TV Weekly*. Anne Diamond goes behind the scenes of popular ITV and Channel 4 programmes. Barry Torker delivers into the archives (999680)
2.45 *Take the High Road*. Highlands-based drama serial (6594912)
3.10 *ITN News* headlines. (6393047) **3.15** *Thames News* headlines (6393047) **3.30** *GP*. A medical drama set in and around a suburban surgery (4985283)
3.50 *Children's ITV: The Rotties*. Animation (s) (6729329) **3.55** *Captain Zed and the Zoo Zone*. The first of a new series of animated adventures (6944028) **4.20** *Roll's Cartoon Club*. Roll's cartoon club (s) (624973) **4.30** *Art Attack*. An programme for children presented by Neil Buchanan (4118009)
5.10 *Who's the Boss?* American comedy series. starring Tony Danza (4561080)
5.40 *Early Evening News* with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (763252) **5.55** *Thames News* (521531)
6.00 *Home and Away* (s) (Oracle) (912)
6.30 *Thames News* (592)
7.00 *Emmerdale*. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (5757)
7.30 *Jimmy's*. More dramas concerning the parents and staff of St James's University Hospital, Leeds (s) (776)



New at Sun Hill: Lisa Geoghan as WPC Polly Page (8.00pm)

- 8.00** *The Bill: Split and Polish*. PCs Loxton and Cooper arrest a man who is driving a stolen saloon only to discover that he is guilty of a much more serious crime. Starring Tom Baker, Andrew Paul and a new face in the cast, Lisa Geoghan. (Oracle) (4405)
8.30 *This Week: The Enemy Within*. A timely investigation into how the IRA is operating on the British mainland. With reports from London, Belfast and Dublin on the IRA's operations who are orchestrating an increasingly disruptive campaign. (Oracle) (3912)
9.00 *Targgart: Ring of Deceit*. Episode two of the three-part thriller starring Mark McManus as the dour Glaswegian detective investigating the murder of a scientist. (Oracle) (7689)
10.00 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Conservative party (360738)
10.05 *News* with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (6393047) **10.35** *Thames News* (521531)
10.45 *01*. The week's featured film is *Thelma & Louise*, the play is *Radio Times* which will be reviewed by Leslie Phillips (s) (622573)
11.20 *Prisoner: Cell Block H*. Australian women-behind-bars drama serial (763554)
12.10am *Science Fiction: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Link*. The legendary detective investigates the Pitdown Masses. Starring Reece Dinsdale (167581)
12.40 *Football Starting Lineup*. Ipswich, Fulham, Plymouth, Zykerman and Lynn Hail perform Opus 9 No 2 in D major (s) (4603332)
1.10 *Film: Crash!* (1976) starring Sue Lyon and José Ferrer. An unbelievable mixture of occult and car chase with a jealous invalid husband trying to kill his wife, who uses demonic devices to cause mayhem of her own. Directed by Charles Band (123581)
3.00 *Kojak*. New York police drama series starring Telly Savalas (s) (4555) **4.40** *Police Report*. Special. Action from Thurston and Penning and the British Judo Championship (48959)
4.30 *America's Top Ten* (s) (67413)
5.30 *ITV Morning News* with Phil Roman (77239). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** *Cartoons* (36218)
7.00 *The Big Breakfast* presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (49397)
9.00 *You Bet Your Life*. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (20842)
9.30 *Schools* (590028)
10.00 *Flight Over Spain*. Guadalajara from the air (s) (Teletext) (85738)
12.30 *Sesame Street*. Entertaining early-learning series (34370)
1.30 *Take 5*. Programmes for the young (48855)
2.00 *Check Out 92*. The consumer affairs programme examines the big-business world of Britain's charities (s) (73279991)
2.25 *Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket*. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 races (83457189)
4.30 *Fifteen To One*. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge quiz game (s) (689)
5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The guests are people who have awoken from comas. (6123826)
5.55 *The Magic Roundabout* narrated by Nigel Planer (s) (390263)
6.00 *You Bet Your Life*. American game show (s) (Teletext) (s) (454)
6.30 *Gamesmaster*. Video game show presented by Donnam Diamond. The guest is Wimbledon footballer Vicky Jones, who plays a game called Soccer Brawl (134)
7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zenab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (46523)
7.50 *Comment* (465554)
8.00 *Down To Earth*. The last in the series explores the Roman Empire in Britain and the birth of England (2047)
8.30 *Rising Damp*. Alan (Richard Beckinsale) gets a too-hold in high society. Unfortunately Rigsby (Leonard Rossiter) wants to join him. With Frances de la Tour and Don Warrington (s) (Teletext) (1554)



Persecuted by the white man: native Maya Indians (9.00pm)

- 9.00** *Critical Eye: Winds of Memory*.
 ● **CHOICE**: An unsettling report from the central American state of Guatemala offers a tragic update on the 500-year conflict between the native Maya Indians and their Spanish conquerors. Matters came to a head in December 1990 when soldiers from the Guatemalan army entered a Mayan village and opened fire, killing 13 and wounding many others. This outrage, perpetrated on the eve that the villagers were helping armed guerrillas, followed the 'pacification' campaign of the early 1980s, in which 20,000 peasants were killed and 250 villages burned. The film shows how the white man's determination to impose his political power has also become an attempt to destroy the Mayans at their cultural roots. Unsurprisingly, the Mayans are not turning out to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus. (Teletext) (s) (8931)
10.00 *Film: The Heart of Justice* (1992)
 ● **CHOICE**: A political thriller by the American playwright Keith Reddin stars Dennis Hopper as a best-selling novelist who is shot dead as he leaves a country club. The murderer then kills himself, leaving a star New York journalist (Eric Stoltz) to piece the story together and land himself in unexpectedly murky waters. Made under the banner of *The Writer's Cinema*, the film was the result of a sympathetic collaboration between Reddin and the director, Bruno Barisoni. Jennifer Connelly (as the killer's mysterious sister), Vincent Price and Bradford Dillman also feature in a strong cast. Reddin's screenplay draws on a real case from the beginning of the century about a writer who was murdered for allegedly featuring the killer's family in his stories (s) (963318)
11.40 *Set of Six*. Comedy series starring Rowan Atkinson (s) (567592)
12.15am *Dispatches*. An investigation into the international diamond business (s) (56825)
1.15 *Film: Murder by Contract* (1958). Lwi starring Vincent Edwards. Cult crime thriller about a professional hit-man hired to kill a witness who is under police protection. Directed by Irving Lerner (7322351). Ends at 2.40

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (465283), 6.10-6.40 Home and Away (4551080), 6.50-7.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 10.45-11.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 11.15-11.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 11.45-12.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 12.15-12.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 12.45-1.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 1.15-1.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 1.45-2.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 2.15-2.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 2.45-3.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 3.15-3.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 3.45-4.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 4.15-4.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 4.45-5.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 5.15-5.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 5.45-6.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 6.15-6.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 6.45-7.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 7.15-7.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 7.45-8.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 8.15-8.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 8.45-9.00 The Young Doctors (465283), 9.15-9.30 The Young Doctors (465283), 9.45-10.00 The Young 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